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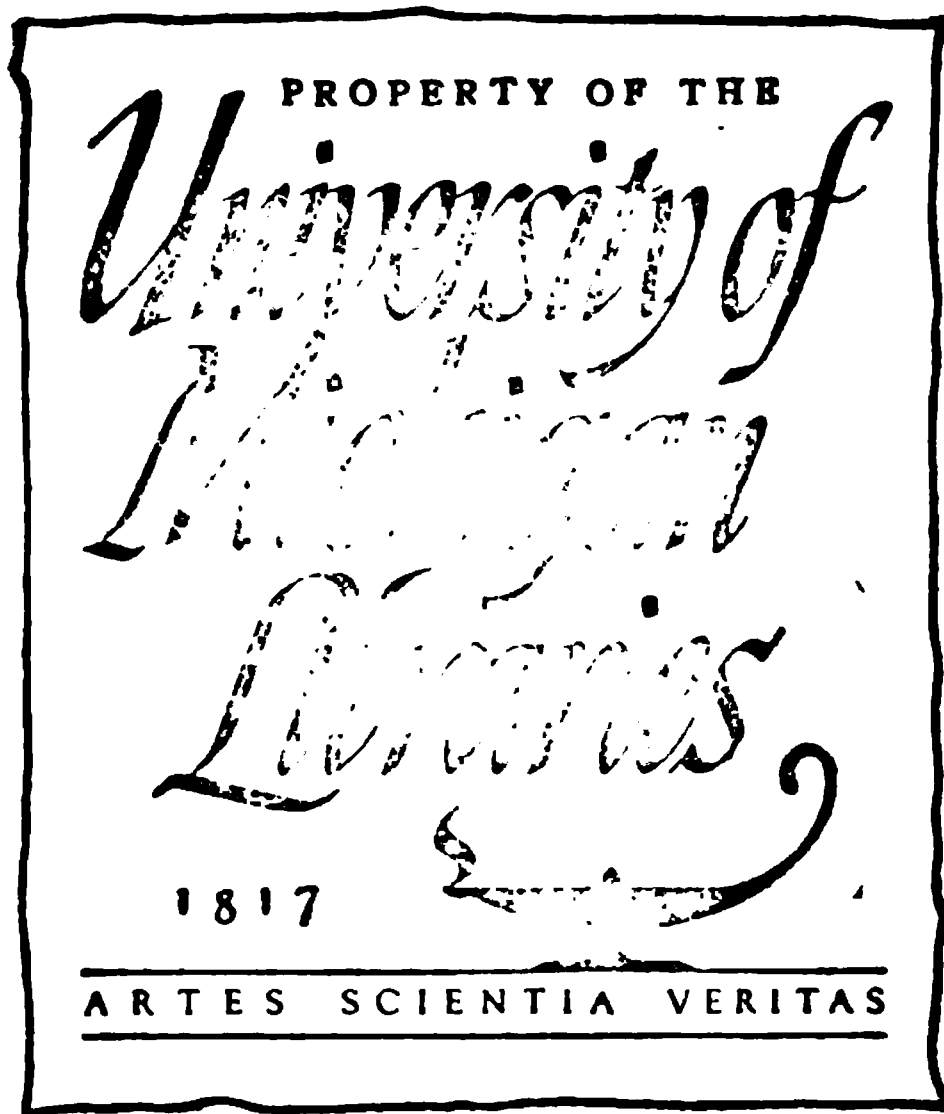
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1832-1833



THE  
**THOMSONIAN RECORDER,**  
OR  
**IMPARTIAL ADVOCATE OF BOTANIC MEDICINE,**  
AND  
**THE PRINCIPLES WHICH GOVERN**  
THE  
**THOMSONIAN PRACTICE.**

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PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & CO.—PROPRIETORS.

*General Agents of Dr. Samuel Thomson.*

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THOMAS HERSEY, SENIOR EDITOR.

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But apt the mind or fancy is to rove  
Uncheck'd, and of her roving is no end;  
Till warn'd, or by experience taught, she learn  
That not to know, at large, of things remote  
From use, obscure and subtle, but to know  
That which before us lies in daily life,  
Is the prime of wisdom; what is more, is fume  
Or emptiness, or fond impertinence.—MILTON.

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VOL. I.

COLUMBUS—OHIO.

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1833.



Medical  
Treatise  
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## PREFACE.

WE are now brought to the close of the First Volume of the **RECORDER**. The friends of Botanic Medicine, of the Thomsonian School, must be fully apprized that we have had to encounter many difficulties. We have been pursuing a new and untrodden path, in attempting to diffuse the knowledge of the Thomsonian System by means of a Periodical devoted exclusively to that purpose. At our commencement, the *Eclectic* of Mr. Howard was started to oppose us with a head wind. He had published a voluminous work of "New Views," on the subject of Botanic Medicine, entitled "*An Improved System*," &c., claiming to be a "New Theory of Medicine." The most untiring efforts were made to convince the world that the works of Dr. Thomson were grossly defective—That his Theory was erroneous, and his prescriptions deficient—That this "Improved System" had progressed so much beyond him as to leave his "rights and privileges untouched." The distinguishing talents of Harvey D. Little, Esq., from motives of interest no doubt, were faithfully devoted to the cause of his father-in-law. This unpleasant controversy gradually subsided, and we were vain enough to suppose that, on the cardinal points, on which we were at variance, the victory was our own. Communications poured in from all quarters assuring us that no "New Views" would be able to work their way to the putting down the System of Dr. Thomson. It stood on too firm a basis to be superseded or overthrown by innovation or professions of improvement. We were assured that the principles which, from the beginning, had governed the practice of Dr. Thomson, had stood the test of experience and observation. Thomsonians refused to adopt "New Views" or new prescriptions, unless sustained by less suspicious, more disinterested and unequivocal testimony, concerning their peculiar and distinguishing excellency.

In managing the Howard controversy, many would have urged us on to perpetual war. Others were offended, and thought it time and labor thrown away; that all opposition, originating under such circumstances, if let alone, would die a natural death.

We of course found a difficulty to suit the views and feelings of all in that immense body of subscribers that have patronized the work. In order to abandon the quarrel so unpropitious to the parties, we were obliged to suppress the publication of some valuable communications. The writers will here learn our apology, and, as we never questioned the purity of their motives, clearness of their illustrations, the strength of their arguments, or elegance of their diction, they will please now to be charitable enough to believe that it was not because our sentiments did not accord with theirs, but be-

cause of our unfeigned desire to follow peace with all men, by all rational means in our power, that they have been refused a place in the **RECORDER**.

We feel inexpressible consolation in the assurance given us, by so many of our readers, that we have so far progressed to their satisfaction. We question whether any work of equal size in the United States contains so great a quantity of original matter, or so large a portion of editorial labor. None can desire more sincerely to be permanently useful to the patrons.

The period at which the publication of the Recorder commenced, gave an importance to the plan seldom realized. The public attention was just beginning to be turned in earnest to Botanic inquiries, and the Thomsonian Practice, in a special manner, was rearing up its head from a state of long depression, and shedding, with increasing lustre, its benign influence on the wide community.

Though our prospects at the beginning were discouraging, we leaned confidently on the prowess of truth and the good understanding of the people, and our patronage has increased daily, and we are confident that very few periodicals have an equally extensive circulation.

The advantages of a periodical work on Botanic medicine, and specially devoted to the Thomsonian System, must be obvious to all who have attentively reflected on the subject. Some men are destitute of any opinion of their own in Law, Physic, or Divinity. They do not make it their business to think; they prefer to pay the Lawyer, the Doctor, and the Priest, to think for them. To persons of that description we would say, that we do not believe they will receive much benefit from our publication. It is the reading, reflecting, inquiring, noble-minded part of our community that we look to for converts to the System—these are the hearts of oak that sustain the cause.

Since the Recorder has been put in circulation, it has given an impulse to Thomsonianism that it never received before. The enemies of the cause have doubled their diligence. Invention has been on the alert. Envy has reared its snakey crest, and hollow, black-hearted malice yawned terribly, but it has travelled on with resistless strides. It is making its way from town to town, and from city to city. The sons of science and humanity, in multitudes, espouse the great and good cause. The successfulness of the practice defies contradiction and insures its ultimate triumph against the opposing interest of the Learned Faculty, and the credulity of their uninformed and bigotted adherents.

The Recorder is designed to concentrate to a focus the labors, the experience, the observations, and the intelligence of the great Botanic family. Our ideas are not circumscribed to the mere extension or the circulation of this work. No: but we wish greatly to augment the number and importance of the communications designed for our pages.



## PREFACE.

Our position before the public brings to our minds the saying of one of our countrymen, a gentleman of talents and celebrity in the learned and political circles, who was an editor, and placed in somewhat of a similar condition. "Substantial discoveries and improvements may generally be exhibited," says he, "in a few words, and ought always to be made known in that simple, cheap and expeditious manner which belongs alone to periodical publications. Voluminous and systematic works, the benefits of oral instruction and individual correspondence, are often inaccessible to persons who are ardent in the pursuit of knowledge; but of the source we here recommend, all may participate who feel a disposition to enquire.

"The prevalence of this kind of publications, marks an era in the history of the human mind. To cultivate or neglect them, may well be considered, at present, as a test of the progress or torpor of society. Their influence on the scientific body may be compared to that of the arteries in the animal body, which carry nourishment, warmth, and life to the most distant parts. Or, rather, they may be described, perhaps with more propriety, as the great conductors by which knowledge is transmitted, with electric velocity, through the civilized world."

In selecting for publication from the great mass of materials committed to our trust, and submitted indefinitely to our disposal, we are governed by an invariable rule: The recital of facts, of experience, and the result of candid enquiry, and impartial observation, have always been preferred. This is also the rule we prescribe for ourselves to regulate our future conduct.

We feel under particular obligations to those whose communications have contributed extensively to the utility of the Recorder, and constitute its principal ornaments. We are happy in the confidence, that readers of taste and discernment will find some things that will be read with interest for centuries to come, and which, for intrinsic excellence, are seldom exceeded in works of any kind.

We wish ever to be mindful of the emptiness, vanity, and deception of mere hypothesis and conjecture, and the perpetuity and excellency of those discoveries and observations that rest on the broad imperishable basis of eternal truth and nature.

The period of our editorial labors has been eminently distinguished by the prevalence of Epidemic Cholera in the United States. The passing year will constitute an important era for the pen of the future historian, when he shall attempt to recite the origin, rise, progress, and concurrent circumstances attending the desolating range of this somewhat novel form of pestilence. These pestilential forms of disease were formerly of so rare an occurrence, that their existence seems to have been almost blotted from the minds even of men of medical science.

The Cholera, which has prevailed so extensively and fatally, and has in many places been met so promptly, and treated with such a measure of success by Thomsonians as is unprecedented, under any other form of treatment, has given rise to many interesting docu-

ments contained in this volume. We have considered this a most important subject—it has received, and will continue to receive, a share of our most special attention. To it we would request all our Botanic friends to turn their minds for critical observations. Judicious details of the precursors, phenomena, and collateral occurrences, in their vast variety, with the general treatment, and also the peculiar treatment of particular and extraordinary cases, will be thankfully received. Communications, well written, on the plan here suggested, are obviously more useful than all the learned conjectures, fine-spun theories, and pathological hair-splittings, that have bewildered the enquiring student, distracted the learned professor, grossly deceived the world, and thronged the avenues of death with deluded millions.

From the commencement of our editorial labors, we have considered the investigation of the origin, nature, progress, and most successful mode of treatment, to restrain and remove pestilential impressions, as they have appeared in our country, among our most imperious duties. In concluding the first volume of the Recorder, we have made it a great leading object to seize upon facts, and whatever important discoveries or auxiliary aid, can be effected to the Thomsonian Practice, will always claim an early notice, and be faithfully spread before our readers.

We hope it will be kindly observed, that, in the multitude of items that have arrested our attention, we have been uniformly careful to discriminate between objects of great and interesting consequence, appropriately appertaining to our general design, and such, which, on candid reflection, must appear of minor consequence.

The United States presents a wide exhaustless field for Botanic inquiries. Her flora embraces a longitudinal extent from the Atlantic to the Pacific shores, and spreads latitudinally from the Gulf of Mexico to her far northern boundary.

We embrace almost every variety of climate and of soil, the luxuriant fertility of which contributes no little to deposit on its surface decomposable putredinous substances, that charge our atmosphere with deliterious exhalations, baneful to human life. To restrain the ravages of pestilence, or those forms of disease of which local peculiarities may operate either as original or existing causes, and glean our fruitful harvests without encountering disease and death at every step, to protect our hamlets, towns and cities, from the wasting horrors of a rare terrific plague, would be to confer on our beloved country benefits beyond all earthly enjoyments. How this invaluable blessing may be most certainly obtained, is an enquiry paramount to all the ordinary researches of the great, the wise, and the good.

The march of discovery is rapidly progressing. Discoveries and improvements in the healing art, which for centuries were almost stationary, in relation to any safe and efficacious means of removing disease, have recently began to advance with unprecedented energy and success.

The Thomsonian System of Practice is original in theory, prescriptions, and modes of administration. Dr. Thomson is not a plagi-

ary copyist. His system is an isolated pillar in the temple of medical science. It is, *in toto*, a system *sui generis*. In its application to the removal of disease there are no rival remedies. He has eclipsed the fame of all antiquity, and his cotemporary competitors are compelled to bow respectfully in his presence. The testimony collected and concentrated in the volume here presented to the public, abundantly sustains the high reputation we so confidently award that distinguished benefactor of mankind.

Since the death of Mr. Howard, and several of his family, who have recently died of Cholera, a new scheme of opposition has been devised. Mr. Howard, who declaimed long and vehemently against Dr. Thomson, and complained of his defects and the inefficiency of his System, who talked, and wrote, and published voluminously, and travelled extensively, and employed the pen of the learned to depose and destroy Thomsonianism, root and branch, is now cried up by a pitiful set of paragraph peddlers, as the *father* of the Thomsonian System, and the founder of Botanic medicine. Then, with paltry baseness, they ascribe the mortality in Mr. Howard's family, to the Thomsonian Practice. This is all a sheer fabrication. Of the disastrous range of sickness in that family, the reader will find a satisfactory account in the 27th number of the Recorder, over the signature of "An Observer."

This is not the place, neither do we now feel disposed to investigate the merits or demerits of Howardism. We would merely, in reply to the *malevolent invectives* constantly cast against Thomsonianism, of which the decease of Mr. Howard has been the ostensible occasion, suggest, for the benefit of our hypochondriacal persecutors, that, with all their blustering vanity, they assail an impregnable rock. If the value of the Regular Practice is to be estimated by casual examples or disastrous results, we would just invite their attention to Dr. Drake's account of twenty-one cases, the first that appeared in Cincinnati. If we remember right, eighteen of those unfortunate victims were attended by the Regular Physicians. He has told us "*they all died!*" We will request them to examine the 502 individuals who have perished in despite of the skill of all the Regular Faculty in Lexington, with its University lifting its head among the clouds overlooking the city.

Will the facetious, fopling quill-driving letter-writers, recently so busy, go with us to Maysville, examine the race-grounds,

"O'er which the Doctors took their flight!  
 "And strain'd to run with all their might!  
 "Trembling and pale with Cholera fright!  
 "Death purring at their heels!"

Look at Dr. Hixson, a giant of the Thomsonian School—read the history of his labors and his astonishing success, and then reflect with abhorrence on the torrent of abusive opposition he has been compelled to encounter. We will not now conduct you to the individual families that have been swept away with the besom of promiscu-

ous destruction, but pass to the Island of Cuba. "You have no idea," says one who was present and saw, "of the gloom which prevails here in consequence of that dreadful scourge the Cholera." Again, he states, "on an estate having an hundred slaves, every soul perished; another with sixty, lost fifty-five. A slave-ship lately landed 400 miserable wretches, of whom all but three died." The whole account is equally disastrous and distressing. The path of Cholera there, as the writer suggests, was "marked with desolation and ruin."

O! ye Regular, Diplomatic, Calomelizing sons of Esculapius! has all your fame and glory come to this? Not a Thomsonian in all your borders found that you could spit upon him the venom of your gall, and have him tried and hung for murder! Oh, sad dilemma!—If there has been any thing blameable or murderous in the practice, it rests at your own doors. You must divide it as equitable as possible among yourselves.

We congratulate the great Botanic Fraternity on the rising glory of the great and good cause. The more the Thomsonian System is understood, "the more readily disease flies, and death drops his arrows."

In conclusion, we cannot communicate our ideas more satisfactorily, than to adopt the language of one of our aged and venerable correspondents—"How transporting the thought, that there is a balm in North America, so efficacious to heal our maladies, when seasonably and faithfully applied! Who but those whose lives have been saved by Botanic remedies, can duly appreciate the value of such powerful antidotes against disease? Egypt may boast of her Hermes, the first inventor of medicine. Cos may write in letters of gold the fame of her Hypocrates. Rome may pourtray to her empire, with all the eloquence of Demosthenes, the skill of her Celsus. Pergamus, in the finer touches of poetry, may celebrate the fame of her Galen; but the Patriot Fathers of New Hampshire will leave a legacy to their children to the world unequalled in the annals of earth and time. It shall be told to the latest generations of human kind, that here was the birth-place of Thomson, a renowned master of the healing art, and one of the profoundest students that ever graduated in the school of nature."

# TABLE OF CONTENTS.

## VOLUME I.

A.	Pages.
Annual meeting - - -	19
An apology - - -	22, 92
Atkinson, General - - -	22
Agents, list of - - -	23, 47, 96
African colonization - - -	45
Ablutions, insufficient - - -	77
Alabama, Medical Faculty in - - -	91
A Card - - -	106
Artifice detected - - -	116
Administering medicine - - -	118
Address of Convention to citizens of the United States - - -	190
" Dr. T. Hersey - - -	159
" do. do. - - -	193
Appendix to No. 1 - - -	145
" " 2 - - -	199
" " 3 - - -	200
" " 4 - - -	201
Address to citizens of Baltimore - - -	243
Acid, Prussic - - -	245
Anatomy, Lecture on - - -	273
Anatomical facts, Logical deduc- tions from - - -	293
A Thomsonian - - -	297
Acetose Tincture of Lobelia - - -	391
American Botanist - - -	395
Arrow-wood - - -	398
Ardent spirits to be avoided - - -	399
Anecdotes, Medical 400, 423, - - -	464
Art of preserving life - - -	420
Ash, Prickley - - -	464
Agrimony - - -	474
Alder, Black - - -	474
Atmosphere - - -	549
Ague Composition - - -	599

B.	Pages.
Blood, Vitality of - - -	4
Belgium and Holland - - -	14
Botanic Society - - -	19
Black Hawk - - -	22
Balsam, Turlington's - - -	41
Balance of Justice turning - - -	55

B.	Pages.
Breathing impure air - - -	77
Bowel complaints at St. Louis - - -	91
Blood-letting disapproved 101, - - -	109
Bowels, Purging of, vulgar folly - - -	113
Barbarity, unparalleled - - -	140
Baron De Haller's discoveries - - -	289
Bread - - -	304
Beach Drops - - -	475
Boueset - - -	475
Burgundy Pitch - - -	476
Butterfly-weed - - -	476
Balsam of Honey, Hill's - - -	531
Balsamic Cough Elixir - - -	531
Butternut, Clarified Extract of - - -	532
Beard, Charles C., Wife and Child decease of - - -	767
Botanic Friends, Notices to - - -	574
Black Death - - -	582
Benson, Egbert, Death of - - -	591
Bitters, Aromatic - - -	598
Bayberry and No. 6 - - -	601

C.	Pages.
Cholera Meeting at Columbus - - -	5
Resolutions concerning - - -	5
Correspondence concerning - - -	6
Anticipated by Dr. John Thomson - - -	7
Remarks on, by J. Thomson - - -	7
Nostrums - - -	11
Dialogue - - -	11
Report of - - -	14
Notice - - -	18
Syrup - - -	18, 61
Westward march of - - -	19
At Cleaveland - - -	22
Deaths by, at Vienna - - -	44
Infantum - - -	62
Account of - - -	70, 71
On the wing - - -	85
Chapter - - -	138
Cayenne, Poison in - - -	15
Correspondents, to - - -	17
Convention, Thomsonian, - - -	19, 141
Proceedings of - - -	145

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

C.		Pages.	C.		Pages.
Communications - - -		33	Cholera in Salem, Indiana -		484
Church and State - - -		44	Desultory Observations		
Children, inquisitiveness of -		45	on - - -	485,	504
Calomel, on the use of, by A. Hunn		52	Clouds - - -		470
Chelic or Copavi Root - - -		60	Cincinnati, Health of the City		484
Camphor - - -		63	Clivers - - -		494
Cleanliness, inattention to -		77	Columbo Root - - -		495
Cold, influence of - - -		78	Crane-Bill - - -		495
Cathartics - - -		112	Cholera, Progress of - - -		496
Cholera—Steam Doctors and Dr.			Columbus, Cholera in - - -		501
Drake - - -		138	Cholera, Remarks on, by Dr.		
Calomel, the effects of	142,	143	Stephens - - -		510
Convention, Proceedings of -		145	Correspondent at Carmel -		528
Communication fr. Baltimore city		154	Cholera—From the Free Press		529
Troy, N. Y., - - -		158	Convolvulus Panduratus -		534
T. Lapham Poughkeepsie		159	Cement, Fire-proof - - -		534
Dr. N. Hixson, Ky.		160	Comparative longevity - -		545
Madison Co. Alab. - - -		161	Church-Bells - - -		547
Ithama Hibbard, Esq.		162	Curious Fact - - -		551
Dr. A. S. Davis, Manch'r		163	Communication—J. W. W. Ala.		552
Dr. H. Chaney - - -		164	Consumption in Hinckley's case		561
Mt. Pleasant, Washington			Cholera, Remarks on, by Dr.		
County, Penn. - - -		166	Drake - - -		568
Saugatuck, Conn. - - -		166	Cleanliness . . .		598
Jacob Mulford, S. C.		167	Cough Drops . . .		599
Mercer County, Ky. - - -		170	Communication from Autauga,		
C. Oleott, Esq. Brunsw'k		171	Alabama - - -		602
Bot. Society, Rutland,			Closing Address to Vol. 1 .		604
Meigs County - - -		172			
Dr. Wm. Carlisle - - -		172			
B. Richardson and J. W.					
Stephens - - -		172			
Chester County, Pa. - - -		174			
R. Barnard, N. Y. and					
William J. - - -		174			
Dr. S. Thomson - - -		174			
Jarvis Pike, Esq. - - -		182			
Thomas Johnson - - -		184			
Dr. A. Curtis, Va. - - -		185			
Dr. H. Whiting, N. Y.		186			
D. F. Nardin - - -		187			
Petersburgh, Va. - - -		171			
L. W. - - -		331			
Cancer Doctors - - -		217			
Caution, Salutory - - -		238			
Cincinnati - - -	269,	327			
Cholera - - -	304,	381			
L. W. from . . .		331			
Cholera at the Havana . - -		334			
Clingman, A. B. Letter from -		357			
Calomel, beware of - - -		387			
Cholera at Maysville - - -		426			
at St. Louis - - -		447			
Remarks on, No. 1 - - -		457			
No. 2 - - -		471			
Account of, from Ohio					
Monitor - - -		482			

## D

Drs. Willis and Highmore -	4
Drs. Cyrus and John Thomson	24
Diseases of the Teeth, by J. White	33
Dogs bitten, and take Lobelia -	39
Deaths by Cholera. Vienna -	44
Dr. Drake's Address - - -	66
Disease, Causes of - - -	77
Drink, the intoxicating use of -	78
Defective clothing - - -	78
Death, Reflection on - - -	80
Drake, Professor, censures Thom-	
sonian Practice - - -	87
Dimmick, A. Letter from Albany	106
Death of children, Licking Co.	120
Dr. T. Hersey elected President	
of Convention - - -	145
Doctors' Laws - - -	203
Dr. Cole - - -	238
Drunkenness, Excuses for - -	245
Dr. B. Thomson's Infirmary -	301
Dr. R. Talbott, Letter from -	345
Dysentery - - -	379
Dr. Rush - - -	400
Dr. Montgomery's Lecture -	406
Dogwood - - -	496



# TABRE OF CONTENTS.

xi

D.	Pages.
- - - - -	496
- - - - -	524
- - - - -	526
- - - - -	535
- - - - -	544
- - - - -	545
- - - - -	549
- - - - -	561
- - - - -	587
- - - - -	590
- - - - -	591
- - - - -	596
- - - - -	607

E.	Pages.
Editorial Remarks - - -	15
" " 17, 19, 33, 34, 35, 120	120
" Notice - - -	22
Execution of Criminal, N. Y. -	25
Examinations, Desultory -	35
Erysipelas, cure for - - -	41
Extract of Letter - - -	43
Extraordinary Phenomenon -	44
Extract from Robertson's Lectures	46
Essays, Desultory—Essay 1 -	49
Effects, pernicious, of blood-letting	56
Epilepsy, case of - - -	64
Essays, Desultory—Essay 2 -	73
" " Essay 3 - - -	97
Exercise, insufficient - - -	97
Eclectic - - - - -	108
" No. 1 - - - - -	109
" No. 2 - - - - -	369
" No. 3 - - - - -	385
" No. 4 - - - - -	401
" No. 5 - - - - -	417
" No. 6 - - - - -	433
" No. 7 - - - - -	449
Examinations of Mr. Little's de-	305
fence - - - - -	110
Enquirer, National, Aug. 8, 1827	368
Eye, Description of - - -	378
Epigram - - - - -	464
Excursion, Scientific - - -	564
Electricity - - - - -	551
Emanations from the earth -	571
Epidemic in Cincinnati, by Dr.	599
Drake - - - - -	600
Eye Water - - - - -	600
Essences, How to make - - -	600

F.	Pages.
Faculty, their influence - - -	1

F.	Pages.
Ferris, R. Letters from - - -	20, 40
Frost, Early - - - - -	15
Fruit, Effect of ripe - - -	17
Friar's Balsam, Recipe for -	41
Food rendered pernicious -	77
Facts, plain and undeniable -	248
Fraser, E. L., Letter from -	445
Flight to the country - - -	484
Fever Bush - - - - -	496
Flowers - - - - -	551
Ferris, Rufus, Esq., Death of -	576
Fishes, History of, Mass. -	574

G.	Pages.
Greece - - - - -	15
Great Plague in 14th Century -	27
Gamboge - - - - -	112
Gould's Letter to Plummer -	286

H.	Pages.
Hunter, John, his opinion - - -	4
Highmore, Dr. - - - - -	4
Howard, Horton - - - - -	16
Honestus 40, 49, 73, 96, 121, 337	337
Hamilton, Letter from - - -	43
Hippocrates, The tomb of - -	81
Herbs and Planets - - - - -	81
Howard and others - - - - -	92
" without Thomson - - -	94
Howard's Plans - - - - -	263
Humanitas - - - - -	341
Hydrastis Canadensis - - -	397
Hixson, Nathan - - - - -	428, 429, 432
Hops - - - - -	514
Hail Storm - - - - -	519
Honey, Poison from - - - -	525
Health of the Mind - - - -	525
Hersey, Thomas, Notice by -	528
Hygiene - - - - -	545
Hay Fever - - - - -	551
Heat in Rooms - - - - -	551
Hixson—Maysville Monitor -	554
Hypochondriacism - - - - -	577

I.	Pages.
Items, Foreign - - - - -	14
" Editorial - - - - -	120
Imagination, Influence of -	64
Ireland - - - - -	14
Influence, Sidereal - - - -	62
Indian Doctor - - - - -	83

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

C.		Pages.
Communications -	-	33
Church and State	-	44
Children, inquisitiveness of	-	45
Calomel, on the use of, by A. Hunn		52
Chelic or Copavi Root	-	60
Camphor	-	63
Cleanliness, inattention to	-	77
Cold, influence of	-	78
Cathartics	-	112
Cholera—Steam Doctors and Dr.		
Drake	-	138
Calomel, the effects of	142,	143
Convention, Proceedings of	-	145
Communication fr. Baltimore city		154
Troy, N. Y.	-	159
T. Lapham Poughkeepsie		159
Dr. N. Hixson, Ky.		160
Madison Co. Alab.	-	161
Ithama Hibbard, Esq.		162
Dr. A. S. Davis, Manch'r		163
Dr. H. Chaney.	-	164
Mt. Pleasant, Washington		
County, Penn.	-	166
Saugatuck, Conn.	-	166
Jacob Mulford, S. C.		167
Mercer County, Ky.	-	170
C. Olcott, Esq. Brunsw'k		171
Bot. Society, Rutland,		
Meigs County	-	172
Dr. Wm. Carlisle	-	172
B. Richardson and J. W.		
Stephens	-	172
Chester County, Pa.	-	174
R. Barnard, N. Y. and		
William J.	-	174
Dr. S. Thomson	-	174
Jarvis Pike, Esq.	-	182
Thomas Johnson	-	184
Dr. A. Curtis, Va.	-	185
Dr. H. Whiting, N. Y.		186
D. F. Nardin	-	187
Petersburgh, Va.	-	171
L. W.	-	331
Cancer Doctors	-	217
Caution, Salutary	-	238
Cinnatus	-	269,
Cholera	-	304,
L. W. from	.	331
Cholera at the Havana	-	334
Clingman, A. B. Letter from	-	357
Calomel, beware of	-	387
Cholera at Maysville	-	426
at St. Louis	-	447
Remarks on, No. 1	-	457
No. 2	-	471
Account of, from Ohio		
Monitor	-	482

C.		Pages.
Cholera in Salem, Indiana	-	484
Desultory Observations		
on	- -	485, 504
Clouds	- -	470
Cincinnati, Health of the City		484
Clivers	- -	494
Columbo Root	- -	495
Crane-Bill	- -	495
Cholera, Progress of	- -	496
Columbus, Cholera in	- -	501
Cholera, Remarks on, by Dr.		
Stephens	- -	510
Correspondent at Carmel	-	528
Cholera—From the Free Press		529
Convolvulus Panduratus	-	534
Cement, Fire-proof	- -	534
Comparative longevity	- -	545
Church-Bells	- -	547
Curious Fact	- -	551
Communication—J. W. W. Ala.		552
Consumption in Hinckley's case		561
Cholera, Remarks on, by Dr.		
Drake	- -	568
Cleanliness	. . .	598
Cough Drops	. . .	599
Communication from Autauga,		
Alabama	- . .	602
Closing Address to Vol. 1	. . .	604

**D**

Drs. Willis and Highmore	-	4
Drs. Cyrus and John Thomson		24
Diseases of the Teeth, by J. White		33
Dogs bitten, and take Lobelia	-	39
Deaths by Cholera. Vienna	-	44
Dr. Drake's Address	- -	66
Disease, Causes of	- -	77
Drink, the intoxicating use of	-	78
Defective clothing	- -	78
Death, Reflection on	- -	80
Drake, Professor, censures Thom- sonian Practice	- -	87
Dimmick, A. Letter from Albany		106
Death of children, Licking Co.		120
Dr. T. Hersey elected President of Convention	- -	145
Doctors' Laws	- - -	203
Dr. Cole	- - -	238
Drunkenness, Excuses for	-	245
Dr. B. Thomson's Infirmary	-	301
Dr. R. Talbott, Letter from	-	345
Dysentery	- - -	379
Dr. Rush	- - -	400
Dr. Montgomery's Lecture	-	405
Dogwood	- - -	496

# TABRE OF CONTENTS.

xi

D.	Pages.
Diet - - -	496
Deaths—from Kentucky Journal	524
Dr. Calomel - - -	526
Democrat, Extracts from -	535
Disease among Cattle - -	544
Disease, Predisposition to .	545
Dust, Macadamized Roads -	549
Death of Mr. Hinckley -	561
Disease of Miss Emily Pike and others - - -	537
Deaths in Lexington . .	590
“ Campeachy . .	591
Dying, Modes of, &c. . .	596
Discoveries, Curious . .	607

E.	Pages.
Editorial Remarks - -	15
“ “ 17, 19, 33, 34, 35, 120	22
“ Notice - -	25
Execution of Criminal, N. Y. -	35
Examinations, Desultory -	41
Erysipelas, cure for - -	43
Extract of Letter - -	44
Extraordinary Phenomenon -	46
Extract from Robertson's Lectures	49
Essays, Desultory—Essay 1 -	56
Effects, pernicious, of blood-letting	64
Epilepsy, case of - -	73
Essays, Desultory—Essay 2 -	97
“ “ Essay 3 -	97
Exercise, insufficient - -	108
Eclectic - - -	109
“ No. 1 - - -	369
“ No. 2 - - -	385
“ No. 3 - - -	401
“ No. 4 - - -	417
“ No. 5 - - -	433
“ No. 6 - - -	449
“ No. 7 - - -	305
Examinations of Mr. Little's de- fence - - -	110
Enquirer, National, Aug. 8, 1827	368
Eye, Description of - -	378
Epigram - - -	464
Excursion, Scientific - -	564
Electricity - - -	551
Emanations from the earth -	571
Epidemic in Cincinnati, by Dr. Drake - - -	599
Eye Water . . .	600
Essences, How to make . .	

F.	Pages.
Faculty, their influence - -	1

F.	Pages.
Ferris, R. Letters from -	20, 40
Frost, Early - - -	15
Fruit, Effect of ripe - -	17
Friar's Balsam, Recipe for -	41
Food rendered pernicious -	77
Facts, plain and undeniable -	248
Fraser, E. L., Letter from -	445
Flight to the country - -	484
Fever Bush - - -	496
Flowers - - -	551
Ferris, Rufus, Esq., Death of -	576
Fishes, History of, Mass. .	574

G.	Pages.
Greece - - -	15
Great Plague in 14th Century -	27
Gamboge - - -	112
Gould's Letter to Plummer -	286

H.	Pages.
Hunter, John, his opinion -	4
Highmore, Dr. - - -	4
Howard, Horion - - -	16
Honestus 40, 49, 73, 96, 121, 337	43
Hamilton, Letter from - -	81
Hippocrates, The tomb of -	81
Herbs and Planets - - -	92
Howard and others - - -	94
“ without Thomson - -	263
Howard's Plans - - -	341
Humanitus - - -	397
Hydrastis Canadensis - -	428, 429, 432
Hixson, Nathan - - -	514
Hops - - -	519
Hail Storm - - -	525
Honey, Poison from - - -	525
Health of the Mind - - -	526
Hersey, Thomas, Notice by -	545
Hygiene - - -	551
Hay Fever - - -	551
Heat in Rooms - - -	554
Hixson—Maysville Monitor -	577
Hypochondriacism . . .	

I.	Pages.
Items, Foreign - - -	14
“ Editorial - - -	120
Imagination, Influence of -	64
Ireland - - -	14
Influence, Sidereal - - -	82
Indian Doctor - - -	83

I.		Pages.	L.		Pages.
Innovators	-	91	Lobelia Inflata	-	254, 516
Important Notice	-	206	Lime, Chloride of	-	258
Instructions, Special	-	238	Lectures, by Dr. D. Fowler	260, 279, [353,	365
Interesting Extracts	-	241	Letters received	-	270
Inquirer	-	330	Lecture on Anatomy	-	273
Important Discovery	-	422	Logical Deductions from Anatomical Facts	-	293
Indian Balm	-	514	Locomotive Engine	-	512
Indigo Weed	-	515	Laconics	-	514
Indian Turnip	-	515	Learning, Progress of	-	519
Imprudence in Thunder Storms	-	547	Lexington, Account from	-	544
Ice and Iced Water, by Dr. D. Drake	-	573	Lunar Influence	-	545
J.			Light	-	546
Jerusalem, Physicians in	-	141	Lightning	-	560
J. J. B.—Carthage, Tenn.	-	346	Lotion for the Itch	-	560
Johnson, William, Letter from	-	380	Lexington, Deaths in	-	590
Juniper	-	515	M.		
K.			Medical Enquirer, N. Y.	-	2
Kassader Root	-	534	Medicine, Science of, Retrospective View	-	2
L.			Montreal, Thomson's visit to	-	7
Laws, Medical	-	1	Mann, Dr., Quotation from	-	34
Lancet, American	-	2	Medical Friend	41, 61,	365
Learned Doctors	-	4	Measures, Precautionary	-	62
Letter, by Hiram Platt	-	6	Mind, Intense application of	-	78
“ by John Thomson	-	6	Medicine, Imprudent use of	-	76
“ by Horatio Gates	-	6	Med. Enqr. N. Y. Note by Ed. of	-	83
“ by R. Ferris	-	20	Mandrake or May Apple	-	112
“ from Hardin County, Ten.	-	21	Medical Botanist, Editor of	-	116
“ from St. Louis, dated 6th Sept. 1832	-	21	Medicine, Administering of	-	118
“ to Dr. Coffin—From the Botanic Adv.	-	54	Medical Swearing	-	207
Letters received	-	69	Medicinal Plant	-	240
“ from Cincinnati, Extract	-	70	Mutation of Matter	-	380
“ from on board Steam-boat Champlain	-	71	Montgomery, Dr. Robert D.	-	405
“ sundry	-	88, 89	Miller, J., Letter from	-	444
“ from R. D. Montgomery	89, 90		Materia Medica	-	473
“ from A. Dimmick, Bela Edgerton & A. Metcalf	108		Man in the Ground	-	534
Late rising and late retiring	-	77	Marriages between the homely and handsome	-	548
Lobstein, M. D.	-	101	Meeting, Thomsonian	-	553
Law, Medical, Essay on	-	121	N.		
Lecture, by Dr. S. Thomson	-	192	Nostrums, Cholera	-	11
“ by President	-	192	Negro, A case of	-	36
“ by Dr. Robinson	-	192	Notice by Publishers	-	72
Life, A Chapter of	-	209	“ Editorial	-	72
Letter from J. L. F. Walker	-	217	“ By Printer	-	72
Little, H. D., Esq.	-	253	“ To Thomsonian Convention	-	414
			Numbers, Mysterious	-	79
			National Inquirer, Aug. 8, 1827	-	110
			Extra	-	202

# TABLE OF CONTENTS.

iii

N.	Pages.
Nardin, D. F., on Cholera .	226
New View .	271
Nardin, D. F., A Communication	299
" Letter from .	361
" Communication fr.	408
Nash, Alanson, Letter from .	365
National Library .	460
Nature, Study of .	463
Novel Case .	512
Nettle .	517
Negroes .	519
Nardin, D. F., Communication	541
News, Bad .	589
Neglected, To the .	589
Natural Philosophy .	607

## O.

Our Common Mother (poetry) .	46
Operations, Surgical .	247
Obituary Notice .	269
Ordinance of Medical Association, Washington City .	348
Obituary Notice. Mrs. E. Baker	351
Opium, effects of .	510
Observer, To the Editor of Indiana American .	539
Odors .	549
Observer .	578
Opposition, Spirit of .	588
Ointment, Hemorrhoidal .	601

## P.

Patrons, First Address to .	1
Press, Restraints upon .	1
Prejudice, The active influence of	3
Portugal .	14
Prospects, Our .	17
Premium .	23, 47
Petition to Legislature of Ohio	24
Proposals for publishing Recorder	25
Plague, The Great, in 14th century	27
" Ravages in India .	29
" Influence of in England	30
" Extended into Wales .	31
" Ceased in England, 1340 .	32
" In Damietta .	461
Pericarditis, Acute .	35
Purchasers of Rights .	37
Passing Events .	42
Poughkeepsie, The Village of .	45
Printing Press, first at Pennsylvania	45
Precautionary Measures .	62
Passions, Giving way to .	78

## P.

	Pages.
Popular Traditions .	78
Pickle-Eaters .	80
Planets and Herbs .	81
Pulse, on feeling the .	83
Patrons, Address to .	95
Pantometer .	114
Public, Address to, by S. Thomson	118
Paint, to make .	141
Patrons, Address to .	204
Physiology .	250
Potatoe Pudding .	263
Poisons .	356
Physicians .	385
Piqua-Annis .	398
Perseverance .	457
Press, Liberty of the .	477
Philadelphia Correspondent .	527
Physical exercise of the Senses	547
Perfumes, Abuse of .	550
Practice, Energetic .	558
Post-mortem Examination .	561
Pike, Jarvis, Esq., Deaths in his Family .	567
Public Notice .	576
Peaches .	591
Potato Starch .	600
Practice, Regular, Success of .	606

## Q.

Query .	17
Quaking Asp .	518
Queen of the Meadow .	518

## R.

Rotunda, Disclosures by the Lady of	12
Robinson's Lectures .	16
Request of our Friends .	24
Reports from Cincinnati .	42
Review of a recent Publication	100
Rhubarb .	113
Red Drops, or Sodorific Tincture	115
Ripley, Dr. .	117, 139
Rumor of Cholera at Dayton .	141
Report of Committee .	151
Resolutions of Convention 151, 166, [186, 189, 193, 198]	237
Reformation and Improvement	257
Regular Physician .	305
Recorder, Extra .	382
Robertson, in the Eclectic .	379
Rain-Maker, Remarks on .	400
Remedies, Thomsonian .	408
Remarkable Cure .	408

R.		Pages.			
R. M. Johnson, Cholera at his residence		525	Thomson, John, a Card-by		106
Rattle Weed		532	Thomson's General Directions		113
Regular Practice, success of		606	Thomson, John, To the Editors of the Microscope		139
			Thomson, John, To the Public		139
			Thomson, Samuel, Communication to Convention		145
			Thomson, Wilson, A Letter from		220
			" " "		284
			Tobacco		302
			Talbott, Robert, Communication		345
			T. A. G., Richmond, Virginia		345
			Traits of Indian Character		371
			Thomsonian System of Practice		373
			Thomson, Wilson, Communications from		439, 442
			Truth exemplified, A Dialogue		491
			Texas, Account of		592
			Temperance and Liberty		593
			U.		
			Unconstitutionality of Med. Law		121
			Unicorn Root		533
			V.		
			Vienna, Deaths by Cholera at		44
			Voice from the South		391
			" " "		412
			" " "		424
			Vegetable Medicine		421
			Voice from New York		520
			Voice from New Hampshire		522
			Voice from the South		601
			W.		
			Willis, Dr.		4
			Wilson, Hannah F.		16
			Waterhouse, Quotation from		33
			W. Everett vs. Drake &c.		87
			Woman, by a Young Man		104
			Waterhouse, Benjamin, M. D., Mitchell		104
			Whim, A Modern		117
			" Sustained		117
			Writer of Eminence, Observations of		142
			Who is the Author		251
			Wise Proposal		386
			Willow Peach		386
			Wash or Paint, Cheap		470
			Wake Robin		515
			Worm, The Black		525
			Wild Potatoe		524
			William Wilberforce		523







# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

“Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,”

“And practice be combined with common sense.”

Vol. I. COLUMBUS, Sept. 15, 1832.

No. 1.

## To our Patrons.

In addressing you for the first time, through the medium, as it were of our own organs, we feel it a duty to inform you *plainly*, the course we design to pursue, in conducting this periodical.

In the first place then, we intend this work shall be, what its title *emphatically* implies, the **THOMSONIAN RECORDER**.

For the last twenty or thirty years, there has been one continued and untiring effort by the conductors of the press, in the United States, to destroy alike, both the Thomsonian System and its Author. Accounts the most base, and statements the most false have been and still continue to be eagerly carried the rounds of the public papers, and scarcely one solitary press has dared to refrain from echoing the malicious sounds; and the time has been when Dr. Thomson could not even hire a piece published in his defence. Why are these things so? The reason is plain to every intelligent mind, that has passed the threshold of enquiry upon the subject; it is *the influence of the medical faculty!* this has been accumulating for centuries, until they vainly imagine themselves the only rightful oracles of the science. Although they have, by help of the dead languages, rendered their mysteries unintelligible to the body of the people, & made them to a wonderful extent, tributary to their order; yet there is a point, beyond which oppression cannot be endured, & whenever the expansive mind,

once bursts the shackles of tyranny it cannot again, soon be reduced within its former bounds. The medical faculty have virtually issued the mandate to the people, “thus far shalt thou go and no farther,” to us you *shall* apply, and from us alone you shall receive whatever we may please to give; and although the most envious towards each other, individually, they have never failed to unite their influence, for the utter destruction of any man, or system that makes any advances towards exposing the horrid effects of their poisonous practice. Does any one doubt the enormous influence of this class of citizens? Let him examine the different state Medical Laws, and he will find, to the disgrace of the legislatures of some of the states, that he who deals out death and destruction with an unsparing hand, is not only commissioned to do so, but his *Shylock* charges, for his life destroying services, must be paid to the uttermost farthing, to the exclusion of all other demands. Those who, perhaps, have furnished the distressed family with the absolute necessities of life, during their greatest affliction, must step aside, and jack-all like, wait for the carcase, if, indeed they are so fortunate as to find that; while he who dares to remove disease with healing medicine, which the God of Nature has so profusely scattered for the benefit of all, must be ranked with malefactors, must be deprived of his rights as an American citizen, *must be out-lawed!!!*

To unmask the monstrous Craft by which these things are effected, is one great object we have in view. Wherever the monster may be found, our efforts shall not be spared, to make his hedious form apparent.

It may be thought by some, that our remarks are too severe on the Medical faculty—but, recollect, that we speak of them as a body. That there are honorable exceptions, we are proud, for the cause of humanity, to declare; but from them as a body, we ask nothing, for were we to ask for bread, we should expect a stone, were we to ask a fish, we should expect a serpent, and were we to ask for *medicine* we *know* we should receive *poison*; we repeat it, from them we ask nothing. Let them fulminate their anathemas, and report and publish falsehoods as they have done, let them publish “death by Steam and Lobelia” and tell of the poisonous effects of the Lobelia, and the vitriol like effects of Cayenne to the amusement of all those who have a knowledge of the truth, and we will tell them, that they themselves, by so doing, spread the system faster than a legion of Dr. Thomsons could without such help—for they excite the people to a candid enquiry, and wherever this much is effected, we have full confidence that a knowledge of the truth is at hand.

From the foregoing, we should suppose that our main object could not be mistaken. *With religion and party politics we have nothing to do.* We shall note the passing events of the times, and devote a few pages to matters and things of a general nature; but our grand aim is, to convince the people of the pernicious consequences of the old and poisonous practice, and of the safe, simple and efficacious practice discovered and introduced by Dr.

Samuel Thomson, by a fair and candid exhibition of the effects of both. Therefore “we speak to the plain understanding of the people, and appeal to their honest, liberal construction of us.”

PIKE, PLATT & Co.

The “*New York Medical Enquirer*,” commenced in January 1830, the name of which was changed, in July following to The American Lancet, is published in the City of New York and “conducted by an association of physicians and surgeons.” It is a work well worthy a perusal by any liberal unprejudiced person, for he will there find the degraded condition of the Medical Faculty portrayed in glowing colors. We must give the “Association” credit for their honesty and candour which is evident from their confession, of the retrograde march of the science of their own profession—yet, while we cheerfully acknowledge our belief in their honesty with regard to their own opinions of their own theory and practice, we cannot but pity their ignorance with regard to a theory and practice which they seem anxious to render odious to the public, viz: the Thomsonian—we say ignorance, because we cannot conceive it possible that they should maliciously endeavor to injure the Thomsonian system and practice at the same time they were setting the errors of their own in such bold relief before the public.

We shall proceed to make a few extracts from the work under consideration. Vol. 1. No. 1. Advertisement.

“If we take a retrospective view of the science of Medicine with its alterations and improvements in the last two centuries, the medical annals of this period will present us with a series of learned dissertations by authors whose names alone are now remembered, while their writings, under the

specious term *improvement*, have left us only the deplorable consolation of knowing that their works have heaped system upon system, prescript upon prescript, error upon error, each in turn yielding to its follower. Year after year produces a new advocate for a new theory of disease, each condemning its predecessor, and each alike to be condemned by its successor. We wish a more rational mode adopted for the promotion of medical knowledge, than hair-brained theories and doubtful facts. Observation, practice, and experience in the administration of medicine, with its effect on the system, may take the lead of scholastic learning and hard names. We must have facts instead of opinions, reason instead of theory, knowledge instead of titles and certificates."

Now, who can doubt their honesty. In their very first address to the public, they boldly declare, that "the science of medicine, with its alterations and improvements for the last two hundred years, has only heaped system upon system prescript upon prescript, and error upon error." With these facts fully impressed upon their minds, we do not wonder at the conclusion, that, "observation, practice, and experience in the administration of medicine, with its effects upon the system, may take the lead of scholastic learning and hard names.

Again, "Our design is to support truth, to expose error, and to render the profession some what more amenable to the public." This is noble preaching! But in what way do they endeavor to reduce this to practice? Why, simply, by abusing the Legislature in no measured terms for not favoring them with a law that shall absolutely place *them* beyond the reach of the "public."

Again p. 5. (on Medical education) "Still the active influence of prejudice, of selfish passions, and antiquated habits, have contributed in spite of the

best directed efforts to curb the zeal of ambitious aspirants, and to retard the knowledge of man," we sincerely wish that the gentlemen "conductors" would first learn that it is possible for them to be in error and then apply *this* quotation to themselves.

Again p. 5. It must be admitted, that among the discrepancies which the page of man discloses, in all ages, is the watchful care and anxiety, with which he on every occasion guards certain inferior rights and privileges; while others of far greater importance are either neglected or forgotten."

As an instance of the truth of this, it is only necessary to observe with what scrupulous care, mankind in general, examine any little transaction in the way of trade, which may effect their pecuniary interest to the value of 25 cents, while the whole care of persevering and restoring not only their own, but their families health, is carelessly entrusted to a set of men whose best interest it is, to keep them sick.

Again p. 6. they say: "we see our citizens day after day committing their lives to the care of imposing and uneducated practitioners, and the guardians of the public weal sanctioning a system which has long been pronounced by the ablest judges insufficient and inadequate? To point out the defect of our legislative enactments on this subject, is not alone our object; but to offer to the consideration of the community, a system which may be suited to the present wants and condition of our people; to enhance the importance and respectability of the profession, and to enjoin upon our legislative counsels the propriety of so modifying the existing regulations, as to render the practice of our art, at once subservient to the good of the people and the honor of the profession."

Why are these things so? Why do the gentlemen "*conductors*" assert that for two hundred years the members of the medical profession in their endeavors to improve the science of medicine, have only heaped error upon error, and then marvel because the people are loosing confidence in them—"and the guardians of the public weal" (that is, the state legislatures) must suffer condemnation from these gentlemen "*conductors*" who have become so sublimely elevated upon the very coach-box of this charriot of science ("falsely so called") which has been for two centuries, like the car of Jugernaut insatiably grinding its human victims beneath its wheels, in its increasing rapidity down the hill of error. Those gentlemen "*conductors*" alone, are to be the "*ablest judges*" whether healing vegetables, or poisonous minerals, are best calculated to promote the principle of life, and assist nature in her endeavors to expel the poison of disease from the human system and for this, the legislature must deprive the people of the right to gather and administer their own medicine, which is planted by the God of Nature in their own forests and fields, and compel them to swallow poison from the hands of college learned fools, in order "to enhance the importance and respectability of the profession."

"Happy had it been for the world, if the medical systems which have been obtruded upon it, were only chargeable with inutility, absurdity, and falsehood. But alas! they have often misled the understanding, perverted the judgment, and given rise to the most dangerous and fatal errors in practice. A short view of the history of physic will convince us of this melancholy truth."

Surely if these are facts, some legislative enactments are highly necessary "to render the practice of our art, an honor to the profession."

P. 33. "*Learned Doctors.*" Under this head, they relate the circumstance of two eminent and learned physicians, Doctor Willis and Highmore, cotemporary with Sydenham, physicians of great note, having a controversy about the cause of hysterics, after which they remark:

"We know that in the days of Sydenham, the intelligent, the modest, the *experienced* Sydenham, doctors Highmore and Willis were *at the head* of the profession, and would no doubt have been made presidents of colleges, or of medical societies, where the former could hardly obtain a membership! posterity has been able to do justice to Sydenham, and to make the distinction between *learning* and *knowledge*; the one teaching nonsensical doctrines, the other practical facts. Although we have in *modern learning* no *fixed salts* mixed in the nerves with acid ones, and may not be apprehensive of the *explosion of our nervous system*, the theories of the present day will excite no less wonderment a century hence than those of Dr. Willis and Dr. Highmore do at the present time."

Can it be possible that the theories of our wise gentlemen "*conductors*" will, on account of their absurdity, excite wonderment, a century hence? We fancy they will, in much less time than that.

P. 34, On the vitality of the blood, after quoting "Mr. John Hunter's opinions" to prove that the blood possesses vitality, they remark: "Thus when all circumstances attending the blood are considered, the idea that it possesses life will be easily comprehended," and yet when the life of the patient is assailed by the most violent forms of disease, they endeavor, both by precept and example to enforce the propriety of drawing from him large portions of his life (blood) in order to enable him to struggle with the enemy, disease to a better advantage; our present



wonder is, that this theory and practice has not already excited more "wonderment" than it has; that the blood possesses vitality, we presume no Thomsonian *Ruit* doctor will deny, but that copious bloodletting tends to augment the vital principle of a sick man or a well beast; they will deny, our gentlemen "conductors" logic to the contrary notwithstanding.

### CHOLERA MEETING.

At a meeting of the friends of the Thomsonian System and practice of medicine, held at the Court House, in Columbus, on the 5th day of July inst., the Rev. Geo. Jeffries, was called to the chair, and Martin L. Lewis appointed Secretary.

After the objects of the meeting had been stated, it was on motion resolved, That a committee of three persons be appointed to present resolutions expressive of the objects of this meeting: Whereupon, Thomas Johnson, Hiram Platt, and Robert Cloud, were appointed said committee.

The committee having retired, reported on their return a preamble and sundry resolutions, which after being severally discussed and amended, were adopted unanimously as follows:

Whereas, From reports and accounts which we think entitled to credit in their most essential particulars, we are impressed with a belief, that *that* terrible and fatal disease, known by the name of the Asiatic Cholera, will soon be amongst us. We deem it superfluous to go back to the accounts of its origin, and trace its desolating progress down to the present time, presuming that every individual, is sufficiently acquainted with it to feel the necessity of making every reasonable exertion to prevent its attacks, or moderate its violence. And,

Whereas, we believe in the efficacy of the Thomsonian System and practice of Medicine, and desiring that all those who may wish, should have eve-

ry facility for obtaining it, Therefore,

Resolved, that a committee of—persons be appointed, whose duty it shall be to keep Medicine on hand properly put up; to attend on all calls so far as practicable, from persons attacked with the Spasmodic Cholera. to give directions for administering Medicine; to render such other assistance to the afflicted as may be in their power; and to correspond with persons who may have had an opportunity of testing the efficacy of these medicines in this disease.

Resolved further, That for the purpose of aiding and assisting said committee in the discharge of their duties we hereby pledge ourselves to render any assistance within our power, both to them and the sick as they may direct; unless we shall become convinced that some other method of practice is preferable.

Resolved, That if the Spasmodic Cholera shall make its appearance in our town, it shall be the duty of said committee to meet daily, and register all the cases upon which they have been called to attend, the results as they may have transpired, and consult upon what further measures are to be adopted.

Resolved, That the meetings of the committee shall be open to all who subscribe to these resolutions, and the records so made shall at all times be subject to their inspection.

Resolved, That said committee shall have power to call a further meeting at such time and place as they may deem expedient.

On motion, it was resolved, that, the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and that the publishers of the several newspapers in this town be requested to give them an insertion.

Resolved, That this meeting adjourn to meet at the house of Thomas Johnson, on Saturday the 14 inst., at 2 o'clock, P. M., at which time and place all persons who approve of the

object of this meeting are requested to attend.

GEO. JEFFRIES, *Chairman.*

MARTIN L. LEWIS, *Secretary.*

From the Ohio Register.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

We cheerfully comply with the request of a friend to publish the following extracts from a correspondence on the subject of the cholera. All correct information on this subject must be interesting.—We shall next week publish Dr. Thomson's report of his visit to Montreal. We are also requested to state that the medicine made use of by Dr. Thomson in Montreal and Albany with so much success, has been prepared agreeable to his direction, and may be had of the committee appointed at the late meeting for that purpose, to wit: Hiram Platt, Thomas Johnson, Robert Cloud, and Dr. D. Ferriss.

The poor will receive medicine and attendance *gratis*.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, 11th July, 1832.

*Dr. Thomson,* Dear Sir—By a perusal of the "Ohio Register" and "Ohio State Journal," which I forward with this, you will observe that we have partaken of the general panic, with regard to the Cholera, so far as to call a meeting of the friends of the Thomsonian system, for the purpose of making preparations to give it a *warming* reception. I am desired by the friends generally, and the other members of the committee, (which you will observe were appointed at the meeting,) particularly, to address you on the subject, requesting that you will favor us with any information you may possess, relative to the treatment best calculated to counteract the effects of that disease. The following questions present themselves to my mind, viz:

1st. Have you yet witnessed and treated a decided case of the Spasmodic Asiatic Cholera? If you have,

2d. Have you discovered that any

peculiar treatment is required, other than to consider it as a most violent form of disease, and to treat it accordingly? If the first query is answered in the negative.

3d. What is your opinion with regard to the treatment, &c.

By answering the above queries, you will very much oblige and gratify your friends in this quarter.

Respectfully,

HIRAM PLATT.

"ALBANY, July 18th, 1832.

*Dear Sir*—Your letter of the 11th came to hand yesterday. In relation to the Cholera, I have to inform you, that I anticipated the disease by going to Montreal before it reached our city, and had experience there, and was ready to meet it on its arrival at our place, to the great mortification of the Doctors. I send you my report in the Albany Daily Advertiser of the 11th. A very flattering letter, also, from Horatio Gates of Montreal, to the Mayor of this city, in favor of my practice, which was also published."

Here follows a description of the Preparation of the Medicine, and the manner of treating patients, which Dr. Thomson found to be so successful, that he asserts that, "Immediate relief will follow the application of the above medicine, and in the first stages of the disease, ninety-nine out of one hundred will be cured," &c. and that, "After they are relieved, with ordinary nursing they will recover almost as fast as they were cut down."

Respectfully, yours, &c.

JOHN THOMSON.

*Dr. HIRAM PLATT.*"

The following is the letter from Horatio Gates, a member of one of the most respectable houses in Montreal, to the Mayor of Albany:

MONTREAL, June 23, 1832.

*Hon. John Townsend,*

Sir—Yours by the hand of Dr. John Thomson, (by whom this goes) was duly received,

and I have to inform you that he has been very industrious while here in searching out cases of the Cholera most of which however, were of a very bad type, and been too long neglected: he has prescribed to a number free of expense such medicines as he brought with him, which I understand he makes, and from the testimony of two or three individuals of respectable standing who accompanied Dr. Thomson, and saw him administer his medicine, together with my own personal observation, having conversed with two who were convalescent, and who described the relief obtained from Dr. Thomson as almost immediate and complete. I cannot but think good may result by his practice wherever that terrible disease, the Cholera, prevails; yet as I have no knowledge of the science of medicine, my opinion must only be taken for what it is worth. I am very happy to tell you that the disease is falling off fast in this city in virulence—yet occasional bad cases are yet to be seen, but it appears to be spreading in the country.

Yours,

HORATIO GATES.

#### DR. THOMSON'S VISIT TO MONTREAL.

[From the Albany Daily Advertiser.]  
*Remarks on the Cholera in Montreal—*

*An account of its rise and progress, and philosophical reasons for its raging this season more than others.*

By JOHN THOMSON, of Albany, Botanic Physician.

Many speculative opinions have been entered into by medical men relative to the proximate cause, the medical treatment, and the fatality which has attended the *Asiatic* or *Spasmodic Cholera* in Montreal. I, the subscriber, being of the opinion that its origin might be dated from a variety of local causes combined, and that it was not contagious, and having a desire to see the patients in the various stages of the disease, to watch the variety of symptoms, to learn the state of the city relative to cleanliness, and also whether its eleva-

tion was sufficient for morbid, liquid matter to run off without delay into the river. I wished to learn the state of the atmosphere in and adjacent to the city, whether good or bad; and in either case, to what cause it was to be attributed. Also the general surface of the adjacent country—whether level, or level and measurably sunken and marshy to any great distance about the city, and if large quantities of water must lie stagnant and poison the air in large bodies, or whether the elevation of the country was sufficient to have it find, by a rapid movement, an equilibrium in the St. Lawrence, I also wished to know whether the country was interspersed with hills and dales sufficient for vacuities or rarified and heavy spaces of air to be set in rapid motion from natural causes to form equilibriums and consequently healthy and fresh breezes of air, which is the main spring to the health of man in hot weather, in all countries, and in all naturally hot climates. To satisfy myself in many of my queries; I believed it necessary to procure a letter of address from the Mayor to some prominent person in Montreal. His Honor consented to forward my views, and give me a line of address to Horatio Gates, Esq. The next morning I started for my place of destination and arrived there the 21st June. I found that the climate in the latitude of Canada is subject to sudden and violent changes from hot to cold weather, or vice versa, and for near fifty years the cold weather has not been known to hold to so late a period as at this season. For, comparatively speaking, one day was of a winter and the next of a summer temperature; and the difference between the two days might have been 25 or 30 degrees. Such a tremendous shock or change but few even of the native inhabitants, saying nothing of the poor emigrants who came from a more temperate and genial climate, were able to stand. The emigrants being generally very poor, they crowded themselves into small and unhealthy tenements, some of which were no more than about sixteen feet in width, and about 24 to 30 feet in length, one story in height, and from six to six and a half feet between joints. This size

would make two houses, into which would be crowded two or three families, and as is generally the case, each family wonderfully blessed with children, who would count up fast. One half of the filth about such houses may be credited to the children, the remainder to the parents, who set the example of uncleanliness.

These houses are generally built for profit; the spot selected is in the most filthy and narrow streets in the city, for house lots in such places are the cheapest. The inclination towards the river in many places is so small that when water, which has been used for culinary or other purposes, was thrown into the streets, it would in many instances evaporate so near that the effluvia would return to its old habitation, to assist in generating disease; or if the weather was not hot enough to evaporate the water, it would lie in puddles until the rays of the sun should rear the hydra's head, that it might begin the work of death. The season being so backward and the weather remaining so cold that the inconvenience of nuisances was not perceptible, all animal and vegetable matter was consequently thrown into the streets, and there left to be disposed of as the elements could agree.

I found that to a considerable extent north and south, the face of the country was unfavorable to the health of the city, as the surface is very even and low as far as the eye can see. Laprarie, on the opposite side of the river, is still more unfavorable in point of locality in relation to disease, as it is the most level country I ever saw; the eye may traverse over a number of miles in every direction before it will find relief by the intervention of any considerable swell. Some 20 or 30 miles down the St. Lawrence may be seen a mountain; one may likewise be seen at the extreme west side of the island, on which Montreal is located, and if the healthiness of the climate was equal to the beauty of the country, its rival could hardly be found.

Laprarie suffered much more severely, as I was informed, according to the number of inhabitants, than Montreal. These low lands must contain an immense quantity of stagnant water which cannot run off with facility, and the exhalations of which would be sufficient to

fill the air with poison for a great number of miles round. The air, in consequence of having no hills nor dales over which it might waft itself to seek an equilibrium in various rarified spaces, has to remain a stagnant body in the city and over a considerable part of the country; and, as is common in such cases, the foul air, not being often displaced or changed for better, the inhabitants were under the necessity of breathing over their filth for a number of days before they could be relieved. Under such circumstances, no wonder if meat would putrify even on the highest steeple in Montreal. For should a current of heavy cool air waft itself from the nearest mountain, to seek an equilibrium in the valley below, the atmosphere was so hot that it was immediately rarified and carried up to a lighter sphere of action. The only current and the freshest air that was discoverable to me in the middle or at almost any other time of day, was that which appeared to be floating down on the bosom of the St. Lawrence, which may have been the cause of a less number of deaths occurring on the quay or docks than in the centre of the city. On which account I presume the emigrant's Hospital was built in an open space on the bank of the river, the building running parallel with the river with large doors in the gable ends, which occupied almost entirely the whole width of the end. When these doors were open, I felt that there was a fresh breeze of air from up the river, and no other did I feel while there.

The weather having continued cold, and the temperature ranging from, say 55 to 60, the thermometer, all at once, as if by magic, on the 13th or 14th of June, rose up of a sudden to 80 or 85 degress. So great and sudden was this change, that the vital warmth could not keep pace by absorption with the air around the body; a person would feel as if he was before a hot oven or was scorching alive. The vital warmth was not sufficiently absorbed; the outward heat was raised nearly equal to the vital warmth, and the patient felt as if before a heated furnace, and experienced great difficulty in breathing. He sought a cool place or he fanned himself to obtain more congenial air, reduce the outward

warmth and obtain a small surplus for the vitals.

Should the patient in this state drink cold water, the small surplus of vital warmth will be found insufficient to overpower the chill and to rarify the water and throw it off by perspiration; but the chill is sufficient to put out the last spark of vital energy and kill the subject.

The reader has doubtless often heard elderly ladies make the remark when the heat was oppressive, "how cool and comfortable I feel after drinking this warm tea." This vital energy has obtained from the hot tea, the surplus of warmth which is necessary to perform the respiration with ease.

Many of the more weakly as soon as the temperature upon the surface had raised equal to the vital warmth, and an equilibrium was formed, their breath was immediately stopped; of course the subject would be dead, which was caused by the exhalation of the surplus of vital warmth which was necessary to rarify the air from which they received the oxygen or the main spring to the circulation of the blood, and consequently life to the body. Numbers fell dead about meridian, or when the temperature was at its greatest height. The heat would conquer some; the heat and filth in streets combined, would bring others down, and the more athletic would require the two last, combined, with the more deadly effluvia or stench that arose from the evaporation of the liquid contents of the stomach of some one of the family. The most weakly would be killed at first, by the heat or cold water. The next subjects were those who had stood the heat of the first day, and by respiration or absorption of the putrid air about them, would be taken with a relax; an uneasy sensation commencing at the lower extremity of the bowels; at first no sense of pain is felt, but a dizziness in the head is perceptible, and some times no fear entertained, unless they look in a glass; the sight of the eye first convinces the mind that their dependence, the flesh and blood, are going to rapid decay. The eyes are sunk, the cheeks and lips pale, the cheek bones are very prominent, a pressure is felt at the chest, and the nervous system is very much irritated

from the sight of the eye. The mind is then active for the defence of the body, both external and internal. By taking a draught of cold water in this state, it makes its way immediately to its friend, the relax, and their mutual strength combined, immediately creates pain in the bowels; nature struggles to throw them off by the relax, and in that effort she exhausts measurably her warmth or means of defence.

The first enemy, like the Asp, takes hold gently and fatally, and his grasp is not easily loosened. The effort of nature being repulsed, the enemy works his way towards the stomach, and when within about four inches a faint streak is felt to dart from the diseased spot to the stomach; it continues to increase; at last, nature is attacked as it were in her own citadel, and vomiting commences. A powerful and final effort must now be made, which will decide the fate of one of the parties. To do which, the warmth (or pickets as it were) are called in to defend the main fort. The absence of the heat at the extremities, causes the feet and legs to become very cold, which contracts the flesh and wrinkles the skin, on which the atmosphere condenses, and the skin appears as if it had been soaked in cold water. The absence of warmth from the muscles, which go into the flesh, from which the blood conveys it to the vitals, is the cause of the cramps in the limbs, by the sinews contracting from loss of heat; and as soon as the warmth is exhausted in rarifying the frequent respirations, the patient is dead. The tracing this case through, must suffice for all. Although there are other symptoms which are produced from the same causes, in proportion as the person's constitution varies in point of strength.

Many of the poor emigrants, while laboring under these powerful evacuations, had not the conveniencies that were necessary in their trying state, and as they lay in bed would vomit upon the floor; this morbid matter would run away and settle in the corner or in the lowest part of the room, and in many instances it was left for time and the sun to evaporate. Should they undertake to wipe or file it up, it made it much worse, for the file was used to spread it over a greater surface of the



floor without any addition of pure water, in order that it might be made to dry up quick, which added tenfold fury to the first bad air in the room, all of which would rise up, and the low ceilings, (six or six and a half feet,) over head, would confine this venom within the sphere of every person's head that came in the room. The new supply of poison was sufficient to take down almost every one who came within its baneful range.

Opium and brandy were used when the contest was so severe that nature was under the necessity of calling in her resources or warmth from the extremities, and this would, as it were, give nature a blow upon the head until the enemy had completed the destruction of the bowels; and in about twelve hours, or less, the patient was dead.

Where the disease was very rapid, opium would stupify the body and stop the evacuations of morbid matter in the system, in consequence of which the rapid reduction of vital warmth by rarification was checked, and life was preserved for a few hours, but eventually it was more sure death to the patient.—For nature, before the opium was given, had full command through the body, and struggling by puking and purging, to throw off the difficulty; and as soon as the opium was received, the strength of the body was more concentrated at the stomach, the seat of life, to defend that; and in a short time the action of the bowels was destroyed and the stomach surrendered soon after, and the debt of nature was paid. I fully agree with a certain physician that "opium may be regarded as the sheet anchor in the cholera," but I believe it is the sheet anchor of death instead of life. The reason why no smell was perceptible or mortification visible during any of their *post mortem* examinations, was that the disease and opium killed off the patient so quick that no chance was given to mortify.

The "unknown doctor," or the eccentric Stephen Ayres, managed his patients quite differently. While the stomach and bowels were in a great state of excitement, he threw into the stomach a compound of equal parts of charcoal, lard and maple sugar, which allayed the irritation of the stomach, and

eventually completely destroyed the effects which these poisonous evacuations had upon the coats of the stomach and bowels, and left nature to work off the disease. His medicines had the same effect towards backening and killing the disease, as the opium and brandy had in killing the body. My course was to raise the vital energy by art, by throwing into the stomach pure vegetable stimulants, (no part of which had ever undergone a chemical process,) that would give immediate vital strength and upon this strength assist nature by other powerful assistants (not enemies) to throw off the difficulty, which would generally be done in from thirty minutes to two hours; then, with ordinary nursing, the patient would recover almost as rapidly as he was cut down.

After the patients, who came under my observation, had been relieved of their distress, where the evacuations had been profuse, the *evidence* of which generally lay upon the floor, I ordered two quarts of good lime to be slacked in a bucket of water and left to settle, then ordered the room cleaned out, and the floor filled over with clean water. After it became dry, I directed it to be constantly wet with the lime water, and every other part of the house, under the jurisdiction of the family, likewise in front of the house, in the streets, and yards, &c. I dropped down the windows, where it could be done, at the top, a few inches, when I wet the floor with lime water; for as that freshens the air and it becomes pure and bracing, it settles in the room and the light or bad air would escape out at the top of the windows. When the house was clear of the bad air, then shut up the windows at the top and doors, and keep out as much as possible the filthy air.

Many other observations I made while in Canada which are useful to myself, but probably will be of no more service to the public than the singular epistle which I now lay before them, for which I crave the indulgence of an enlightened public, as a boon to which I think my youth entitles me.

JOHN THOMSON.

N. B. J. T. would here add that he attended a number of cases of Cholera in Montreal, and had the pleasure of affording immediate relief to the af-

dicted. In corroboration of this statement, he would refer the public to a letter from Horatio Gates, Esq. of Montreal, to his honor the Mayor of the city of Albany, which letter appeared in the columns of the "Daily Advertiser," of July 6.

The following article is published for the 'amusement' of our readers; it plainly shows how far men may be carried away by their imaginations.

### CHOLERA NOSTRUMS.

The papers are crowded with "infallibles" for the cholera, either as preventives or as cures. One paper recommends one thing; another, another; and a third something different from either. Indeed the same paper will sometimes contain twenty remedies, all differing from one another. The honest reader, not knowing which to choose, will think it a matter of prudence to be provided with the whole; and will take them all together, or in succession, and in such quantities as will kill the most healthy person in the world.

It is now the harvest of apothecaries. Every body is running to them for cholera medicines. Camphor is especially in immense demand—the price having risen immediately some hundred per cent. Opium, ether, and ammonia, too, are in great request; and a man does not consider himself safe for one moment, unless he has a pistol charged with laudanum in his pocket.

But if these things were necessary and proper, the patient is ill-qualified to judge when, or in what quantities, he should take them. Under a state of alarm, he fancies every disease with which he may be assailed, is the cholera: and, more than this, he fancies himself to be assailed with disease when in fact he is perfectly well. In either of these cases, out he whips his phial of laudanum, and begins to drink, and ten to one, he falls a victim to the medicine, which he swallows to prevent or cure the Cholera.

Sundry instances might be given of the rash and unnecessary use of these Cholera nostrums. We will mention but two or three.

A gentleman who had eaten a pound of roast beef and two lobsters for his dinner, in a short time thereafter, felt a sickness and oppression at the stomach; and taking it for granted he had the real Asiatic Cholera, he pulled out his phial of laudanum and without waiting to ascertain the dose by drops, put it to his mouth, and at once took a tolerably hearty swig—enough at least, under ordinary circumstances, to have given his everlasting quietus. Fortunately, however, the medicine increased the nausea occasioned by the beef and lobsters, and the whole were presently cast up together. A doctor being immediately sent for, found the man in a most uncomfortable state of vomition.

"Oh, doctor," said he, as well as he could speak between the fits of retching. "do help me if you can, do."

"What is the matter?"

"Matter! Oh, Lord, matter enough, I should think; don't you see I've got the cholera?"

"No, I don't perceive it. You seem to be vomiting, to be sure; but I don't see any particular signs of the Cholera."

"Not see it!—Oughorruck! oughorruck!—Oh, Lord, it's a gone case with me, I'm afraid."

"Don't be alarmed—your're in a fair way to be better soon."

"I never was so sick in all my life before. Don't you see how I've vomited?"

"I see it plainly. You ate a very hearty dinner."

"Hearty, do you say! I only eat three or four slices of roast beef and a couple of moderate sized lobsters, with a few peas, turnips, asparagus, and such other things as are necessary to make up a meal. And do you call that a hearty din—oughorruck! oughorruck!—Oh, Lord-a-mercy! Do give me something doctor, I beg of you."

The physician ordered some dilutents—and advising his patient not to eat above one slice of roast beef, and half a lobster, on the morrow, left him.

Another case was that of a man, who happened to be present in a house where a child had recently died of worms.—Taking it for granted the deceased had come to its death by the cholera, he was forthwith seized, or fancied he was seized.

ed with alarming spasms. He fell into most violent contortions, both of body and limb; roared out with pain; and as soon as he could gain sufficient command of his hands, pulling out a bottle of laudanum from his pocket, at once swallowed the contents. The people of the house had presence of mind enough to send immediately for a physician, who, on learning the nature and quantity of the remedy swallowed, lost no time in using the stomach pump; and so saved his patient from a cure, which would not only have proved effectual for the cholera, but all other diseases.

Another gentleman fancied that the shooting of his corns was the effect of cholera, and that the spasms were beginning in his toes, from whence they would presently ascend to his vitals. He had also been provided with a phial of anti-choleric medicine. But unfortunately he had left it in his other breeches pocket; and being from home he considered himself a gone man, and was endeavoring to arrange the particulars of his will—when some acquaintance of his happened to suggest, to his great relief, that possibly the attack was nothing more than the shooting of his corns.

Another man, who had his pocket stuffed with phials of anti-cholera infallibles, chanced as he was crossing a street, to strike his toe against the curbstone. He immediately cried out that he was seized with the cholera; and thrusting his hand into his pocket, he found all his phials smashed to pieces, and the contents lost. A crowd gathered around him; but as soon as he declared himself to have the cholera, they all scattered to the four winds, and left him to go, with what haste he could, to the next apothecary, to recruit his stock of infallible remedies.—*Constellation*.

The following contains many valuable ideas, mixed up indeed with a portion of matter that is foreign to our subject, and which we would gladly have omitted, could we have done so without destroying the sense of the extract. The author's views, however, with regard to the importance of every individual becoming their own physician, agrees so well with our own, that we shall take the liberty to insert them,

hoping that the reader will draw the line of distinction for himself.

It may not be uninteresting to remark, that the author is a young female, apparently possessed of a considerable fortune, who has lately made her appearance in London and hired the rotunda at a heavy expense, for the purpose of delivering public Lectures, with a view to correct the evil habits, and customs, and abuses of every description, under which she professes to believe mankind at present are labouring.

It is said that as yet, no one knows her name or lineage, and that she is only known by the appellation of "the Lady of the Rotunda."—Editor.

#### FIFTH DISCLOSURE OF THE LADY OF THE ROTUNDA.

*On the best precautions necessary in these pestilential times.*

There are moments of public excitement, when it is almost unavoidable, but that a public lecturer should be mixed up with it; for, when one great question engages the public mind, all others become indifferent. The art of public instruction is found, in a catching of the spirit of the day, and in leading it on to improvement. I proceed to make this attempt.

Pestilence may be considered in a double point of view, as relating to the body *physically*—as relating to the mind *morally*; though close analysis, would resolve them into one, and show that the pestilence of the mind is also the pestilence of the body, and fasting or abstaining, either from reason or from food, is not a precaution against either kind of pestilence.

The first precaution, then, which I have to recommend, is—Do NOT FAST!—do not abstain either from reason or from food, while you are in health. If fever come, or pestilence seize you, then abstain, and medicate accordingly; but beware alike the priest and the doctor, and learn to treat your own malady by your own experience. It is ignorance of yourself, that makes either the one or the other necessary



and comfortable to you. Get knowledge and you will banish both. Get knowledge and act upon it, and you may either ward off or eradicate pestilence.

The religious idea, that pestilence is a scourge sent by God, to chastise the nations, the "miserable sinners," is the blasphemy of ignorance, of which I cannot be partaker; because I do not see the guilty fall under it, more than the innocent.—Such a use of the name of God is not only an abuse and a taking it in vain, but is horrid, mixing up the spirit of good, destroying the poets's fanciful characters and regions, and making a heterogeneous mixture of heaven and hell. That is religious blasphemy—blasphemy against God—presumptuous blasphemy on the part of man; such a blasphemy, as of which, he who is offensively styled an infidel, could never be guilty.

All pestilence is essentially of the atmosphere. It may be extensive, ranging over islands and continents and the whole earth; then it may be considered general, and arising from something generated in the earth's chemical action; or it may be local, and generated from a peculiar local cause, and even by the bad habits of human beings themselves. The Asiatic cholera seems to be of the first kind, typhus fever of the second; the best and only precaution against both, is a well fed, clean and comfortably healthy population. The principal sufferers in both cases will be the poor, ill fed, unclean, and miserable part of the people. The best precautions, when danger is near, are temperance, cleanliness, moderate warmth, and atmospheric dryness, to be produced by fire, by a burning of every offensive substance; for in such cases, fire cannot be too active, so as it does not destroy property that is worth preserving. Every thing should be burnt up quickly, that is not worth preserving, or that cannot be speedily converted

to some useful purpose: I need not enumerate, as the catalogue would not be very delicate, but let whatever is combustible, and you would wish out of sight, burn on such an occasion, and at all times. Let nothing of the kind remain in or go out of your houses that will burn.

The great cleansers or purifiers are *fire, water, and air*. *Fire* is the most rapid in its purification, and the first to be used on an emergency, and in confined places. *Water* is the second, where it can be brought to act. *Air* is the third and more permanent; and may be greatly assisted by the science of chemistry; so get knowledge, and you will know how better to take care of yourselves. Get the knowledge that the doctor now has exclusively. You may acquire it, as he has acquired it, by a proper use of your time. Get the knowledge of that the priest has, for he has no fountain of knowledge that is shut to your application. Think for yourselves; act for yourselves; no man can prescribe remedies and advantages for you, as you may prescribe for yourselves. Pope has well said,

"The proper study of mankind is man." His apothegm may be mended; though the chimney sweeper's boy, on receiving from him the salutation of "*God mend you boy,*" told him pertly — "*God mend me! God can better make two such as me, than mend you:*" alluding to the poet's deformity. We may mend the apothegm, by saying more explicitly—

"Himself, is the proper study of each man."

Study yourselves, study your healths; study your tempers; trust to none where you can think and act for yourselves; eschew the evil, choose the good, shun the priest and the doctor, be your own broker with heaven, be your own physician on earth. The business which you cannot do by and for yourselves do by delegates; di-

rect them and pay them as servants. Let none be your tyrants, none your masters; none your priests, none your doctor, none your teacher; but the proper schoolmaster, not he who is abroad, but he who is coming—the *real Christ*.

## FOREIGN ITEMS.

By the bark Orbit, from Liverpool, on the 22d ult. London papers to the 19th, and Liverpool to the 21st have been received. The following is the substance of the news they contain.

**THE CHOLERA.**—Although the Central Board of Health of London report no cases of Cholera in that metropolis, it is evidently again prevailing there to a considerable extent, principally, however, in the city and the parishes along the river below London Bridge. The Report for England and Scotland for the 20th, announces 369 new cases and 136 deaths, that of Ireland of the 17th, 174 new cases in Dublin and 55 deaths. The other places in the country where the mortality is greatest, are Waterford, Cork, Kinsale, Belfast, Balleymacarett, and Drogheda. The accounts from Paris confirm those before received of the increased ravages again making there by this disease. The correspondent of a London paper says—“The temperature has, I lament to say, again risen, while the wind from the north blows cold. The thermometer (Fahrenheit) stands at this moment (two o'clock) at 93. The sad effects of these circumstances are palpable in the dreadful increase of the cholera. I regret exceedingly to state, on the authority of a respectable physician, that the deaths on Sunday were between 300 and 400! while the official return represents them as having been 128.

**IRELAND.**—There are four circumstances connected with the celebration of the Twelfth of July worthy of note. First—The Magistrates and Gentry took a part in the proceedings of the day, and cheered and encouraged their humbler brethren in the celebration of the anniversary. Secondly—Not the slightest violation, or a disposition to a violation of the peace occurred, either on the part of Orangeman or Roman

Catholic. Thirdly—The Government Press has studiously abstained from either villification or ridicule of the proceedings. Fourthly—The Popish Journals attribute the tranquility to the forbearance of the Papists, and the advice of Mr. O'Connell; but advance nothing of a truculent or ferocious description against the Orangemen.

**PORTUGAL.**—Accounts have been received, which state that one division of Don Pedro's army is at Grigo, a strong military position—that the advanced guard is at Vouga, about 40 miles distant from Oporto—and that the object is to advance to Coimbra, from whence the communication with Figueras will give the invading army a command of the whole sea coast from Oporto are said to have declared in favor of Donna Maria.

A government steamer, from the Mediterranean, arrived at Falmouth, on the 17th, from off Lisbon on the 12th—was informed that all was perfectly quiet at Lisbon; the fact of Don Pedro having landed, and being in possession of Oporto was fully known in the city, but no feeling had, up to that period, manifested itself in favor of Constitutionalists. Don Pedro's troops had occupied Grigo and Youga, without opposition; and it was said that his squadron had directed its course towards the Tagus, with a view of opening a communication with his partizans in that quarter. Don Miguel's army had taken post at Aveiro, between Lisbon and Coimbra, where it was supposed that a decisive struggle would take place. It was reported that three Miguelette regiments, the 9th, 14th and 19th, had joined Don Pedro at Villa Nova.

**BELGIUM AND HOLLAND.**—The affairs of Belgium and Holland continued to wear a warlike aspect. Both parties were making preparations for the contest which it was expected would soon commence. The commander of the citadel had notified the foreign consuls who reside in the town of Antwerp, that he was in daily expectation that the Belgians would make an attack upon the fortress, in which event he declared his unalterable determination to destroy the town; and warning them that they should take such steps as they might deem advisable, for the preserva-

tion of merchandise and ships belonging to citizens of their respective nations.

**GREECE.**—The accounts from Malta are to the 20th of June. They state the northern part of Greece to be a scene of complete anarchy. Patras has been taken possession of by the Zevellas, and the family of the British consul had embarked on board his majesty's ship *Rainbow*, which was off the port. The inhabitants and residents were leaving by every opportunity.

The French troops had advanced to within half a day's march of the place, and Zevillas had been summoned to surrender, but as he threatened to burn down the palace, they had retrograded, and left it to his mercy.

At Missolonghi a National Guard had been formed, and the regular troops had been driven out of the place, in consequence of which tranquility prevailed—but it appears that nothing can exceed the deplorable state of that unfortunate country.

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## THE RECORDER.

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### COLUMBUS:

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Saturday, September 15, 1832.

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We expect the appearance of this periodical will give a new impulse to the efforts of the enemies of the Thomsonian system and remedies, and call forth the choicest spirits from the leagued legions of our enemies, and array them, not in open hostility for fair combat, but, behind their mighty walls, which, for centuries they have been erecting, and from behind which, we shall expect to be assailed with every missile, that the interest, and prejudice, growing out of the false theory, and false practice of an aristocracy, can invent and bring to bear upon us. Yet like David going to meet the Philistines, we rely not upon the coat of mail and ponderous armor of the schools, but upon the simple weapons of truth. By this will we either stand or fall; fall did we say!

NO, we will *not* fall; for TRUTH is mighty and will prevail.

In February last, we were kindly furnished by our friend, Stephen Macy, of Richmond, Indiana, with a sample of Cayenne, which he informed us had been purchased in Cincinnati, by some person in his vicinity, who had sold some to the practitioners in the neighborhood, the use of which, had nearly cost the lives of the patients to whom it was administered. In short, it was evident that some very poisonous substance was mixed with the Cayenne. We placed a part of what we received in the hands of two competent individuals, who subjected it to a critical chemical analysis, but were not able to detect any mineral substance in it, consequently, the poisonous quality, whatever it may be, is undoubtedly a *vegetable* substance.—This, it would be extremely difficult to detect, indeed we do not know that there has yet been discovered, any tests, other than the effects produced by introducing it into the stomach, by which a *vegetable* poison can be detected.

We hope the foregoing hints will be sufficient to impress upon the minds of our friends, the importance of being extremely cautious of whom they purchase their medicines; for they have a vigilant enemy to guard against, who act upon the principle, that "the end justifies the means."

The WRETCH, whoever he may be, that thus attempted to destroy the Thomsonian practice, by destroying indiscriminately the lives of his fellow beings, is heartily welcome to all the secret enjoyment, consequent on the act.

**EARLY FROST.**—On the morning of the sixth of this month, frost was to be seen on the fences, &c. after the sun was an hour high.

### ROBINSON'S LECTURES.

The demand for this valuable work has been such as to induce us to put another edition of eight thousand to press. They will be prepared for distribution as soon as possible, when we shall endeavor to lose no time in satisfying the demands of our Agents in this particular.

We have received frequent communications from distant correspondents, relative to the far-famed "Ohio Reformed Medical College at Worthington," and wish to inform all those who may yet be ignorant of the fact, that between that Institution and every real Thomsonian "there is an impassable gulph."

We may give our views upon this subject, more fully hereafter.

HANNAH F. WILSON, a member and Minister of the Society of Friends, from Virginia, wishes a religious meeting with the inhabitants of Columbus, THIS EVENING, in the Court House, at early candle light.

### HORTON HOWARD.

9th mo. (Sept.) 5th, 1832.

The above card of invitation was handed us on the evening of its date. We are informed that the sect to which this female Preacher belongs, (the Hixite Quakers as they are termed) deny the Divinity of Jesus Christ, the existence of a Devil, or that there is a future state of rewards and punishments. Such doctrine, whether right or wrong, is quite unpopular at least.

We have, until within a few days, been mistaken with regard to the disposal of our petition to the Legislature, of last session, for a repeal of a part of the Medical Law. We thought it had been laid over, among the "unfinished business," until the first Monday of December next. We now find that the bill for a repeal of said law was finally lost, in

consequence of both houses being equally divided.

We, therefore, wish our Agents, as well as all others friendly to the cause in this state, to use their exertions in getting signers to another petition, and forward the same to Pike, Platt, & Co. Columbus, on or before the fifth day of December next.

We shall forward petitions with this number, to our Agents, as well as many others, with a request that they will endeavor to distribute them, &c.

Through the medium of the Recorder, we hope and expect to convey to our distant friends, correct information with regard to the progress and spread of the system in every part of the United States, and Territories, where it has been introduced.

This is what is most earnestly desired by every Thomsonian, and which, till now, they have had no means for obtaining; but, on the contrary, nearly every periodical is publishing falsehoods upon the subject, and many, no doubt, do it innocently, and with an honest conviction, that they are serving the cause of truth and humanity.

Reports are continually gingling in the ears of the people, that at such, and such a place, the practice has entirely failed, is all blown out, that the Steam Doctors are all driven off, in consequence of their having *steamed* eight or ten to death, burnt out the insides of fifteen or twenty more with Cayenne Pepper, and *poisoned to death*, three or four times that number, with LOBELIA !!! Shocking to humanity! Wy where did these things happen, doctor? Wy, way off in the state of New York, where Cyrus Thomson was taken up for murder, or where John Thomson is giving all the folks the consumption with his *wine bitters*, or way down in Tennessee, or in Vermont, &c. &c.

But the beauty of the tragedy is, that the scene is always at a distance.

Now we can inform our friends and the public, that the very reverse of all this "Death by Steam and Lobelia," is the truth. Our correspondence is very extensive, and from it, as well as our own personal observation, together with the rapidly increasing demand for Family rights, we know that the march of the Thomsonian System is onward.—Like the peaceable and unassuming religion of the meek and lowly Jesus, it was first preached to, and accepted by the poor, but now it is eagerly sought for by *many* of the highest standing, as to property, respectability and talents; and, if we have not been grossly deceived, it is but a short time since our present Chief Magistrate experienced and acknowledged its happy effects.

Communications containing information on the subject, from our distant friends, is earnestly solicited. We feel confident that each and every individual will be convinced of the advantage that will eventually result to himself, from a compliance with this request. It will only be an exchange of information—none will be made poorer, but all will be benefitted thereby.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Some who are not aware of our bills of postage, may think it unworthy of notice. This, however, in *our* estimation, is a mistake. A word to the wise is sufficient.

#### OUR PROSPECTS.

Owing to the injury done the cause, in consequence of the failure of one or two periodicals, to render that satisfaction to the friends of the system which they had reason to expect; we felt doubtful whether the public would be willing to extend to us their patron-

age, sufficient to enable us to undertake the work, with any assurance of being supported, until they could "judge the tree by its fruit."

We consulted our friends on the subject, and were invariably urged to commence.

We *have* commenced, and now have the pleasure of declaring, that our fondest expectations have thus far been realized. Our subscription list is rapidly increasing, and we hope, ere long, to be able to procure for the benefit of the Recorder, a greater amount of talent than at present, it can command.

We have only to request, that our Agents will immediately forward what additional subscribers they have obtained, together with the number that will *probably* be added soon, that we may be better prepared to meet the demand.

Our town and vicinity has been unusually healthy the season past, moreso, we believe, than has been known for a number of years; yet there has been several deaths. Query. How many "by Steam and Lobelia?"

*Don't you think it very unwholesome to eat fruit?* We have frequently had the foregoing question put to us, and almost as frequently had the mortification to find that the prejudice, for the interest of the medical faculty, was stronger than reason and common sense—and it is not uncommon for us to incur the displeasure of that class of mankind who have had their mental faculties yoked and hampered through the interested designs of an avaricious set of men, whom we acknowledge to be in possession of much learning, that has a tendency to hoodwink the people and prevent them exercising their own judgement in matters of the greatest importance, simply by giving them our opinion.

We consider ripe fruit, in all its va-



rieties, as one of the greatest luxuries to be enjoyed by man. And those who abstain from its use, through fear of its producing or increasing disease, we think are thus far, in mental bondage.

We are persuaded beyond the shadow of a doubt, that a temperate use of ripe fruit is not only harmless, but conducive to health. Several instances have occurred within our knowledge of the bowel complaint in children being speedily cured by a free use of fruit, particularly sweet apples.

When we see a parent snatch an apple, or other fruit from a child, which perhaps it has received from one of its little playmates, whom fortune has placed under more rational parents or guardians, and fling it to the hogs, we cannot but pity the wretched ignorance of the one, and the cruel fate of the other.

Children are at all times eager for fruit, and were they at all times freely indulged with it, no bad consequences would follow.

Green, or unripe fruit we believe to be generally unwholesome, more particularly if eaten *raw*. —

#### CHOLERA NOTICE.

We think the time has arrived, when our friends should be put in possession of all the information to be obtained relative to the treatment of the cholera. It is already known to many, that a correspondence (which may be seen in another part of this number) took place between Dr. J. Thomson and H. Platt, upon this subject, in which Dr. Thomson readily communicated the desired information. It was thought advisable, on account of the enemies to the system not to give a general spread to the information at that time, although we communicated it to those of our friends, who we conceived to be in situations requiring such inform-

ation. But now, as the Cholera appears to be spreading, and we are enabled to publish it in such a permanent manner as will secure to Dr. Thomson and the Thomsonian System whatever of credit they are justly entitled to, we lose no time in communicating it for the benefit of all, who do not, through the influence of learned ignorance, prefer a *fashionable* death to a *rational* cure.

**SYRUP FOR THE CHOLERA.**—One pound each of Bayberry and Nerve Powder steeped at different times in a small quantity of water and the liquor poured off, until you get one gallon of the decoction, to this add one gallon of Sugar House, or other pure molasses, one gallon best Jamaica rum, one gallon Rheumatic drops prepared from the very best materials—then to one oz. genuine African cayenne, pour a teacupfull of boiling water, and after standing a short time, add this to the foregoing; mix the whole together, and it is ready for use.

For a preventive, take a table spoonful three or four times a day. In the first stages of the disease, give one teaspoonful of the powders (hercater described) in half a wine glass of the syrup every hour, or often if the attack is violent, place the patient over a lively steam, or place hot stones or bricks wrapped in wet cloths so as to communicate the steam as much as possible to every part of the body and limbs. If the patient should continue to sink after giving a few of the above doses, there should be added from one to three teaspoonsfull of the 3d preparation. Injections should also be used.

After perspiration takes place, put the patient in bed between woollen sheets if practicable, and place a hot

stone at the feet, and continue giving a dose of the syrup once an hour, or sufficiently often to keep up perspiration for a few hours, when, if the patient is not materially relieved, a full course of medicine must be administered.

For children, the use of the powders may be dispensed with, excepting for the injections.

The powder above alluded to is composed of two parts each, of Cayenne, Bayberry and Nerve powder, and half a part of bitterroot or two parts of kercuma.

The Annual Meeting of the Friendly Botanic Society will convene on Monday the seventeenth of December.

From representations by our distant and numerous correspondents, together with our knowledge of the rapidly increasing popularity of the System, we shall be much disappointed, if an unusual number of our friends do not attend on so important and interesting occasion.

We have received the first number of a weekly paper, published in Troy, N. Y. by Russel Buckly, under the title of the "Thomsonian Botanic Advocate." We sincerely hope, indeed we do not doubt, but the patronage will shortly be "as the publisher expects," such as to enable him to, "improve, very materially, in a short time, the appearance of his paper."

We shall most cheerfully act as Agents for the above work, and can assure Mr. Buckly, that every reasonable exertion on our part shall be used to ex-

tend the circulation of his paper.

The Cholera, in its westward march, has already given its mournful impress in most of the eastern States, and we doubt not, sooner or later, the more western and southern states and territories will experience its desolating effects.

We have received two communications from our friend McC. of Va. relative to the improper conduct, as he supposes, of our Agent C.—We feel under obligation to McC. for the evidence he has thus given, of his sincere desire to promote the cause in which we are engaged. We have the pleasure, however, of being able to inform him that we took immediate measures to ascertain the facts, and are now satisfied that C. is not deserving of censure on that account: It appears that a few words passed between C. and another person, by way of joke, which was afterwards made a handle of by the enemies of the system, and a serious meaning attached to them, and by passing through a few hands in this way, soon meant all that our enemies could wish. We have learned to be extremely cautious in giving credit to reports of this kind. We hope no unpleasant feelings will be suffered to exist between our agents, whom we believe to be actuated by the purest of motives.

We have just received a letter from Dr. Samuel Thomson, requesting us to publish the following. We have only to observe, that in doing it, we experience a greater satisfaction than has often fell to our lot to enjoy.

"I request you to publish a call for a UNITED STATES THOMSONIAN CONVENTION, to be composed of Delegates from all the Branch Societies, and where none exist for the members to

assemble and appoint some one or more to attend on their behalf; stating that the call for the convention, is in consequence of a wish on my part, of enjoying the heartfelt satisfaction of seeing a living representation of my numerous and distant friends, and to concentrate, as it were, the now scattered information, knowledge and talents, the better to enable me, the more satisfactorily, and for the greater benefit of mankind, to complete the work in which I am now engaged, viz. A complete revision and illustration of my Theory and Practice of Medicine, in all its various branches.

I would recommend that the delegates and representatives be requested to bring all the information in their power, relative to the subject; such as, at what time the practice was introduced into their respective sections of the country; its progress, present standing, number of adherents &c. &c. Also a sample or description of such vegetables as may have been discovered to possess medicinal qualities, before unknown &c. In short, every species of information relating to the subject that would be useful or interesting to know.

The Convention to assemble in the town of Columbus and State of Ohio, Monday the seventeenth of December next, at which time and place, I shall, IF POSSIBLE, meet them.

Respectfully,

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Extract of a letter from R. FERRISS, one of the firm of Pike, Platt & Co.

*August 24, one mile W. of Utica, N. Y.*  
GENTLEMEN: In consequence of a break in the canal, we have been grounded at this place for twenty-four hours. The breach is now repaired, but the water has not yet risen in the canal enough to permit us to pass on; we shall probably be off by to-morrow morning,—seventy or an hundred boats are now waiting for the canal to be filled. I have just returned from a walk to the city of Uti-

ca. You would be astonished to see the general panic and actual distress of the citizens in consequence of the Cholera. It made its appearance at this place eight or ten days since; the first attacks almost universally proved fatal; some of the first characters have fallen victims to the disease; the city is almost deserted; the rich are mostly gone, consequently the poor are left without employment, and are many of them in a distressed condition, as they cannot get employment, and no one will trust them to-day lest the cholera should kill them to-morrow, and they would lose their pay. The orthodox physicians can do nothing with it; they succeed in stopping the puking and purging, but cannot start a circulation of the blood, and the patient dies immediately. For a few days last past the sick have applied to the Thomsonian quacks with great success; I am told from good authority that all who have had the Thomsonian physicians in season have been cured. I am confident the system is gaining in this country; the eyes of the public at present are upon the Thomsonians; not a day passes but I am applied to for medicine;—had I prepared twenty gallons of cholera drops before I started I could have paid all my expenses. In passing through Utica we could see scarcely any of the good houses but what were shut up—the country people avoid the place. In the important streets where there used to be fifty or an hundred wagons at a time, almost every day, not a wagon could I see; and in walking seventy-five or an hundred rods on the side walk, I hardly met half a dozen citizens.

*August 25, 2 o'clock, P. M.*

We got under way sooner than we expected, we are now about 50 miles east of Utica, and in as good health and spirits as the times will admit of.

*Troy, August 26.*

We arrived at this place to-day, and expected to be in Albany to night; but the man with whom our captain has business here, will do nothing in consequence of its being Sunday; so we must wait for another day.

*Monday morning*—This place has every appearance of health. You can hardly imagine the contrast between this



and Utica. Here the people are all life and animation, every one attending to his own business, with as much energy as if they had never heard of the Cholera. Not so in Utica, where fear and the cholera combined, make wretched work. Mrs. Ferriss' health, (as well as my own) is perfectly good. Journeying appears to agree with her perfectly well.

1 o'clock, P. M.—We have just reached Albany.

Evening.—I have been to see Doct. Thomson; he is from home. I shall not be able to see him. I very much regret it.

We leave here to-morrow morning at 7 o'clock, on board the steam-boat Champlain, for New York, where you will probably hear from me again.

R. FERRISS.

State of Tennessee, Hardin co. }  
August 28th 1832. }

Messrs. PIKE, PLATT & Co:

We being entire strangers have taken the liberty to write you a few lines, believing that the nature of our business is such as to justify us. We have recently formed an acquaintance with Dr. Samuel Thomson's system of Medical practice, and have, notwithstanding our former prejudices, become convinced beyond doubt, of its complete superiority over every other. The success that has attended the few trials which have been made in this section of country is truly astonishing and has produced considerable excitement among the people; we believe this a very favorable time to strike. If we were prepared with medicine and books we could make a very advantageous disposition of the same, the prejudices of the people have been generally overcome; the true light begins to shine. We have both been in possession of the right to practice for some time, and are frequently called upon for aid; one of us has been a minister of the gospel for a number of years and being extensively acquainted, will have a great opportunity to dif-

fuse a knowledge of it among the people; the other has been a regular practitioner agreeably to the old system, for several years, his standing as a man of science and medical skill, can be ascertained by a perusal of his credentials. We are sanguine upon this subject, we wish to see our friends, connections and acquaintance participate in the benefit and blessings, which this great discovery is so well calculated to afford: We are determined to exert our influence in its favour and wish to be placed in a situation which will favour those exertions.

Extract of a letter dated,

St. Louis, Missouri, Sept. 6th 1832.

FRIEND JOHNSON:—Times have been very brisk in this place in our line, the Botanic System takes the lead of the old System, in the estimation of all who have tried it. The people were really tired of Calomel, and were ready to hail this as their day of deliverance from learned Quackery. Many who have their physicians by the year, are, and have been from the first regularly attended from our shop. Some of the most respectable, and opulent in our city are our decided advocates. We have but little trouble from the *Faculty* and many have been very polite and friendly, though we have taken many out of their hands, and effected cures with those that they had given over. Drs. Craft and Rice have pursued a judicious and safe course, and have been very successful in the treatment of the diseases peculiar to the country. Thus I consider a wide and effectual door is opened for the introduction and disposal of Thomson's Rights and medicines in this State and Illinois. This country has not been very unhealthy, only a considerable disposition to the common Cholera Morbus.

We have not had the Cholera here yet, although it is at

Rock Island, between which place and this city there is a regular communication.

Sept. 7th.

N. B. The Steamboat Winnebago has just past this place on the way to Jefferson Barracks, 6 miles below, with some Indian Prisoners on board, among whom it is said, is the warrior and chief, Black Hawk, who it is said was captured by some friendly Indians. The particulars I did not learn.

T. B.

Sept. 8th. 1832.

I have broken open this letter to inform you of the report of the arrival of Black Hawk, and the Winnebago prophet, with ten other chiefs of the hostile Sacs and Foxes, they were captured by a party of friendly Winnebagoes, sent in pursuit of them by Gen. Atkinson, they were lodged safely in prison in Jefferson Barracks. Also to inform you that there are 4 cases of the real Cholera reported at the Barracks this forenoon, it is among a party of the U. S. soldiers from Rock-island who lately arrived here; it will soon be in town. Buletins are issued this afternoon calling a town meeting. We now shall be able to test the efficacy of the Botanic system on this scourge of the earth; I doubt not of success; in haste.

T. B.

If the cholera should rage here, I will report success from time to time. Write me soon as you get this.

#### CHOLERA AT CLEVELAND.

October 8th, 1832.

We learn with extreme regret that the CHOLERA is approaching nearer every week. Last evening's mail bro't us the alarming intelligence that on Tuesday the 4th inst. this desolating plague made its appearance at Cleveland. In twenty-four hours from its commencement, 20 cases had occurred. Of these, 10 have died. We awfully fear its ravages are now spreading with relentless strides, in that fair portion of our country. While so many are passing off thus suddenly to their long

home, and the mourners going about the streets, we seriously lament the incredulous, stupid imbecility of mind, over which ignorance, pride and superstition maintain such an ascendancy, as to prevent multitudes from resorting timously to the Thomsonian remedies. These have been successful beyond our most sanguine expectations. All other means appear to have proved comparatively abortive. What rational man, perceiving himself or family attacked by this disease, should hesitate a moment what course to take. Our assertions are founded on facts and not on mere opinion.—We wish to rouse the attention of community to universal, honest, unprejudiced inquiry. No pecuniary remuneration for our labors, could equal the satisfaction, of having been instrumental in saving the lives of some of our beloved citizens, by directing their attention to the safe and salutary means, which providence appears to have placed in their power: not the rich alone, but the poor are pointed to the same means—for them we feel special commiseration, and to them we have tendered our advice and attention, as circumstances may require—determined to extend the plucked hand of charity, to pluck the thorn from the pillow of affliction, comfort the widow and the fatherless, and wipe the big tear from "*sorrow's brim-full eye.*"

Few families have been so sorely visited as that of a Mr. Cunningham, of Rockport, a village near Cleveland.—On the morning of the 20th ult. they breakfasted happily together; four died before sun-rise the ensuing morning—a fifth shortly after, and two others were not expected to recover.

#### EDITORIAL NOTICE.

An apology is due to our patrons for the appearance of the Recorder at a period later than we had intended. The causes have been too numerous and too uninteresting to any but ourselves, to justify a formal exposition, by entering minutely into a long and tedious detail of circumstances—suffice it to say, occurrences supervened, of which we had no anticipation—events over which we had no efficient control, which human prescience could not readily foresee, nor the most vigilant precaution prevent.

The accumulation of interesting documents furnish important matter for many subsequent numbers in advance. In the mean time, original communications and reports of interesting cases, successfully treated, corresponding with our general design, and possessed of a good degree of intrinsic merit, will be received with grateful acknowledgements. We calculate that our future numbers shall be issued regularly, as proposed in our PROSPECTUS; and subscribers supplied as immediately, as on our part, the strictest attention may render possible.

We feel a measure of diffidence, not amounting to a shadow of distrust, in relation to the Thomsonian scheme or system of medicine, but such as results from a moderate estimate of our own competency to illustrate, vindicate, and support the cause, with that precision and dignity to which it is justly entitled: But what we lack in logical acumen and literary embellishment, will, we are confident, be fully compensated by congregated facts. The dome of Thomsonianism, stands on the strong pedestal of unequivocal truth. Truth, plain, naked, simple truth, is the sword on which we rely for our defence, amidst the brigades of opposition that surround us—facts, observation and experience give it point. We ask therefore for no other indulgence than we will ever be willing to reciprocate, in case of an exchange of circumstances between ourselves and those who feel an interest in the ultimate success of this publication. Neither do we ask a more liberal boon from our most inveterate OPPONENTS.

Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 6th 1832.

#### PREMIUM.

A premium of TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS will be given for the best written Essay upon the subject of the Unconstitutionality, Injustice, and Injurious Effects, resulting from our present aristocratical Medical Law.

#### CONDITIONS.

1st. All Essays for the premium must be accompanied with a sealed letter, containing the writer's name and place of residence, and forwarded free of postage, to Pike, Platt, & Co., Columbus, Ohio, on or before the tenth of December next.

2d. If two Essays are presented of unequal length, but corresponding in force of argument, the shortest will receive the premium if of equal merit.

If the above conditions are complied with, then we agree to examine each Essay carefully, with a desire to put the best construction upon the writer's language, in order, as far as possible, to get his true ideas, and decide accordingly.

After the decision, we shall open the accompanying letter, and affix the author's name to the Essay that shall be considered the best, and publish it in the next succeeding number of the RECORDER.

The other Essays, together with the accompanying letter, shall be kept until the first of February, if not sooner called for, when the letters will be burned without opening, and we shall consider ourselves at liberty to publish the Essays, with such signatures as the writers may affix to them.

PIKE, PLATT, & Co.

Columbus, 10th Sept. 1832.

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Our friends are requested to forward us the names of persons suitable for agents in such places as they may deem proper where none are appointed. Our eastern agents, where it is more convenient, can remit the amount of their subscriptions to Dr. Thomson, Boston Mass., whose receipt will be the same as ours.

The following is the form of a petition to be presented to the next Legislature.

*To the Honorable, the Legislature of Ohio.*

Whereas, the undersigned, citizens of the state of Ohio, considering their unalienable and constitutional rights violated by the operation of the 11th section of an act to incorporate Medical societies, passed February 26th, 1824: would respectfully pray your honorable body, to repeal, or so modify the same, as that all contracts entered into for services rendered, or to be rendered, may be binding on the parties—and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Drs. CYRUS and JOHN THOMSON, of Geddes and Albany N. Y. and ABNER KNEELAND, of Boston, Mass. have been respectfully and especially invited to attend the United States Thomsonian Convention. It will probably be the last visit that Dr. THOMSON, Senior, will ever make into the Western country.

✂ Editors friendly to the Thomsonian Botanic Practice in Medicine, are respectfully requested to give the above an insertion in their respective papers.

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

" Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
" And practice be combined with common sense."

Vol. I. COLUMBUS Oct. 20, 1832. No. 2.

## THE RECORDER,

IS PRINTED EVERY OTHER SATURDAY,

FOR PIKE, PLATT & Co.

BY MARTIN L. LEWIS,

On Front, between Broad & Market sts.

COLUMBUS, OHIO,

WHERE JOB PRINTING, SUCH AS

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## PROPOSALS,

BY PIKE, PLATT, & CO.

For publishing in Columbus, Ohio, by  
subscription, a work to be

Entitled the

## Thomsonian Recorder.

**T**HE object of the publishers in undertaking this work is, to diffuse a correct knowledge of the THOMSONIAN SYSTEM & PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, among the public generally, so far as a just regard to Dr. THOMSON's rights may justify; and gather matters of fact, of every description, that have a bearing upon the subject, and spread them before the public. It is deemed necessary that such a work should be published, for the purpose of putting the public, generally, and the friends of the System, particularly, in possession of the facts, touching this matter, thereby enabling them to correct some few of the many false reports and accounts, by which the public are so continually abused.

It is believed unnecessary to say any thing further upon this subject, at present, as the true friends of the THOMSONIAN SYSTEM and REMEDIES, are already aware of the necessity of such a publication, and of the benefits that

would result to the public by it, and would doubtless take pleasure in exerting themselves to sustain the work.

THE THOMSONIAN RECORDER, will be published in numbers containing twenty-four pages, neatly executed: it is proposed to issue them semi-monthly, but if the patronage should justify it, they will publish weekly, and will be offered to subscribers at TWO DOLLARS per volume, (twenty-six) numbers;) to be invariably in advance, or on the receipt of the first number, either to the publishers, or some one of their agents.

Those to whom this prospectus have been sent, will please return them or the number of subscribers thereto, as soon as possible.

PIKE, PLATT, & Co. General  
Agents for Dr. Thomson.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Oct. 20, 1832.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

From the N. Y. Mirror.

### THE EXECUTION.

A correspondent of the New York Mirror has given the following thrilling description of an execution which our readers will recognize to be that of a man who murdered his wife in this city not many months since, and suffered the penalty of the law early in the morning, at his own request:

I was once tempted to witness an execution. All the circumstances conspired to render it a powerful appeal to the imagination, and accidentally, at that period, mine was peculiarly susceptible, for I was scarcely convalescent from a dangerous disease, which left me unusually debilitated and nervous. The ceremony took place in the yard of a prison, lof-



ty, narrow, gloomy and enclosed by a dark high wall, which shut out every prospect, and, but for an angle of sky above might have passed for a subterraneous dungeon. I had seen the convict continually on his trial. He was a detestable villain, who in cold blood, and without cause, had murdered a sweet wife, in a manner atrociously brutal. Altogether a more desperate, iron-nerved, repulsive ruffian, I never beheld, and he had a sardonic expression of countenance which, I thought, might of itself, have been justly expiated at the gallows. The sentence doomed him to suffer on a certain day, between the hours of four in the morning and two in the afternoon, and, with a characteristic firmness, he had preferred a request, which had been complied with, to die at daybreak. His character and conduct had singularly interested me. He had heard the tremendous doom uttered without apparent emotion. His cheek did not blanch, nor his eye quail, nor a muscle of his face move. He kept his gaze riveted for a moment on one of his fellow-beings whom the institutions of civilized society, and the wayward tenor of his own life, had placed in such a solemn and responsible relation to him—one mortal striking off the list of existence a creature like himself, and sending him back to his God as an unworthy habitant of the great globe. Then I remarked that his parched lips parted, like the taking asunder of two bodies which had been glued together. A vacant glance fell on the sea of strange silent faces, turned on him from every side; but he walked between the officers firmly and steadily back from the bar to his prison. Great heaven! what a fury and whirl of horrors must then have been glaring through the brain. How ghastly and dream-like must have appeared to him the surrounding images! The scene took such forcible hold on my feelings, that I resolved to meet again that cold vicious face, those dark

unflinching eyes, that cruel leering look, and to note how so ferocious and bloody-minded a villain would be affected in that sublime moment of farewell to earth. The grey dawn had not yet pierced, even with its most advanced beams, the heavy darkness of the east, as I stood at the prison gate, and rattled the short massive chain, suspended there as an emblematic substitute for a knocker or bell, the rough keeper admitted me, after a brief parley. A few figures were gliding, silently, through a narrow passage which led to the yard, and which was dimly lighted by a lantern set on the ground. I reached the fatal spot. The faint morning light rendered visible the gallows; a simple machine consisting of two beams planted in the ground, and crossed by a third at the top, from which hung motionless, a cord with a hook at the end. It was arranged for the wretched victim to stand directly on the ground and be raised, by cutting away a weight, instead of sinking through a trap, according to the usual manner. Around the gallows a group of forty or fifty men were collected in a circle. Half were officers of justice with their long poles. They stood in perfect silence. I had arrived in the moment when the sheriff, having completed every arrangement, had sent into the cell of the doomed man, bidding him forth to die. Intense interest pervaded every breast. The stillness which before had appeared complete, grew now more deep, unbroken, and palpable. Then footsteps were heard, and three persons came, with a quick pace, from the dark alley. Two of these were constables, and each held, by the collar and arm, the third—a sudden murmur, strikingly expressive of interest, pity, and horror, ran through the crowd, as the new comers stopped beneath the gallows. Yes. It was the unhappy, lost object of this gloomy meeting. He came from his weary prison. He came to look his last at

the faces of his fellow beings, and the light of heaven. He wore their form, but was no longer deemed worthy to be among them. He was brought forth, even as a beast, to slaughter. What a wild, gone dream, life must have seemed to him! What fearful thoughts must have crowded his brain!

He wore his ordinary dress, common dirty clothes, and thick shoes, unbrushed; but his cravat had been thrown off, and his shirt collar was open. His arms were bound also, at the elbows, closely to his body, and on his head was placed a white cap. His face, too, was altered almost too much for recognition. The roughness and fierce cruelty were gone, and the appearance of coarse health and strength had given place to a sallow, livid, emaciated look, which made me pity him from my soul. His very temples were yellow, and his fingers bloodless.

There were no ceremonies whatever. He made neither speech to the crowd nor prayer to his Maker, but apparently took as little notice of one as the other. The death warrant was read, and every thing prepared. One man stepped out from the circle, and bade him farewell. The wretched victim held him by the hand, convulsively for a moment, and said, in a low whisper, "take care of my child." Then, the cap being drawn over his face, and he standing thus dark and alone, the rope sustaining his weight was severed, his figure flew several feet into the air, round and round he whirled, and heaved one or two vain shuddering struggles, and then hung, no more a human, conscious being, while the morning light painted the heavens with a calm and lucid beauty, and the serenity and brightness of nature contrasted strangely with the gloom and horror of the scene.

#### The Great plague in the 14th century.

The memory of the Great Plague in London, has been rendered immortal

by the prose of Daniel Defoe and the poetry of John Wilson. But the greater plague which overran almost the whole world, three centuries before, is almost forgotten. A slight sketch of its history, drawn from old chroniclers, will shew, by comparison, what a small matter is magnified into pestilence in the present day. This dreadful pestilence, like the Cholera, made its first appearance in the East. It arose in China, Tartary, India, and Egypt, about the year 1345. It was ascribed by the contemporary writers, Mezeray and Giovanni Villani, to a general corruption of the atmosphere, accompanied by the appearance of millions of small serpents and other venomous insects, and, in other places, quantities of huge vermin, with numerous legs, and of a hideous aspect, which filled the air with putrid exhalations. Some zealous christian writers of the time derived its origin from the arch-imposter Mahomet; for they say that, at Mecca, in Arabia Phelix, it rained snakes and blood from heaven for three days and nights together; that the temple of Mahomet was beaten down by a terrible tempest, and his sepulchre torn up and broken in pieces; and that the sulphureous vapours, & the stench of the snakes and blood, so corrupted the middle region of the air, that the infectious matter spread itself over the world in all directions. Making every allowance for the ignorance and credulity of the age, it appears evident that some natural cause had contributed to corrupt the air and load it with pestiferous vapours. And it is remarkable that, before the disease appeared in Europe, singular meteorological phenomena of a similar nature took place. Thus it came into England in the end of the year 1348; and it rained from Christmas till Midsummer almost without ceasing; "so that all the while," to use the words of an old writer, "it hardly ever held up so much as for one day and night together." Great inundations followed; and

accumulations of stagnant water, by which the whole atmosphere was poisoned. In France, several strange meteoric appearances are described by writers of credit. Giovanni Villani says, that on the 20th of December, 1348, in the morning, after sunrise, there appeared at Avnigon, over the Pope's palace, a pillar of fire, which tarried there for the space of an hour, producing great terror and amazement.

During the same period there were many dreadful earthquakes; some of them in places where such phenomena have since been unheard of. At Rome, an earthquake threw down a great number of houses, steeples and churches. At Naples there was an earthquake, accompanied with a tremendous hurricane, which destroyed a large portion of the city. On this occasion it is related that while a friar was preaching to a crowded congregation, he and his auditory were swallowed up in an instant—all but one individual, who observed the trembling of the earth in time to save himself by flight. A great multitude of the inhabitants were buried in the ruins of their habitations; and the citizens durst not venture in their houses, remained terrified in the market-places or fields, till the earthquake, (which continued by fits for eight days) had spent its fury. In Greece, particularly in Morea and the island of Cyprus, whole villages were overwhelmed. Even in Germany, a country not liable to this calamity, there was an earthquake which extended over a great part of Austria and Syria, and destroyed many towns and villages in those districts; "And many other provinces," says an old historian, "suffered such lasting characters of the fury of these strong convulsions of nature, that lest the joint concurrence of so many authors of those days should not obtain sufficient credit, they might be very plainly read even by late posterity. These

earthquakes were generally attended with storms of thunder and lightning, wind and hail. In the year 1348, according to Lampadius, it rained blood in Germany, and meteors and other coruscations appeared in the air. Mock suns were seen and the heavens sometimes seemed on fire.

In many of these accounts we may presume there is a good deal of exaggeration. But the testimonies are too numerous and respectable to leave any doubt that, before and during the pestilence, the elements were in a state of general convulsion which seems unparalleled in history.

The plague extended its ravages from India into the more western part of Asia, into Egypt, Abyssinia, and thence into the northern part of Africa. It proceeded over Asia Minor, Greece, and the Islands in the Archipelago, almost depopulating the regions over which it stalked. It may be literally said to have *decimated* the whole world, even though we were to take this term as implying the destruction of nine, in place of one out of ten. According to Mezeray and other writers, "where it was most favorable it left one out of three, or one out of five; but where it raged most violently, it scarcely left a fifteenth or twentieth person alive. Some countries, partly by the plague, and partly by earthquakes, were left quite desolate. Giovanni Villani says that in a part of Mesopotomia, only some women survived, who were driven by extremity and despair to devour one another.

The plague appears to have staid five or six months in a place, and then to have gone in search of fresh victims. Its symptoms are minutely described by some writers, and appear to have been the same in every country it visited. It generally appeared in the groin, or under the armpits, where swellings were produced, which broke into sores, attended with fever, spitting and vomiting of blood. The



patient frequently died in a half a day—generally within a day or two at the most. If he survived the third day, there was hope; though even then many fell into a deep sleep from which they never awoke.

Before the pestilence invaded Christendom, it is recorded, in a report made to the pope, at Avignon, that it swept away twenty-three millions eight hundred thousand persons throughout the East in the course of a single year. While the Christians remained untouched, their supposed immunity, since their neighbors were suffering the extremity of the malady, operated so strongly on the minds of some of the heathen princes, that they resolved to propitiate Heaven by embracing Christianity. The king of Tarsis, accompanied by a great number of princes and nobles, actually set out on his journey to Avignon, to receive baptism from Pope Clement VI. But hearing on his way that the Christians too had become victims to the destroyer, he returned home, with the loss of about two thousand men, whom the Christians most ungenerously attacked and cut off in the rear of his army.

From Greece the plague passed into Italy. The Venitians, having lost 100,000 souls, fled from their city, and left it almost uninhabited. At Florence, 60,000 persons died in one year.

Among these was the historian Giovanni Villani, whose writings we have referred to. He was one of the most distinguished men of his age; and his historical works are looked upon as correct and valuable. He was the annalist of this pestilence almost down to the day of his falling a victim to it. France next became exposed to its ravages. At Avignon the mortality was horrible. In the strong language of Stow, people died bleeding at the nose, mouth, and fundament; so that rivers ran with blood, and streams of putrid gore issued from the graves and sepulchers of the dead.

When it first broke out there, no fewer than fifty-six of the Carmelite friars died before any body knew, how, so that it was imagined they had murdered one another. Of the members of the English college at Avignon, not one was left alive; and of the whole inhabitants of the city, not one in five. According to a statement or bill of mortality, laid before the pope, there died in one day, 1212, and in another 1400 persons. The malady proceeded northward, through France, till it reached Paris, where it cut off 50,000. About the same time it spread into Germany, where its ravages are estimated at the enormous amount of 12,400,000 souls. At Lubeck alone, according to the concurring accounts of several writers, 90,000 persons were swept away in one year, of whom 1500 are reported to have died in the space of four hours.

At last this fearful scourge began to be felt in England. About the beginning of August, 1348, it appeared in the seaport towns on the coast of Dorset, Devon, and Somersetshire, whence it proceeded to Bristol. The people of Gloucestershire immediately interdicted all intercourse with Bristol, but in vain. The disease ran, or rather flew over Gloucestershire. Thence it spread to Oxford; and about the first of November, reached London. Finally, it spread itself all over England, scattering every where such destruction, that out of the whole population hardly one person in ten was left alive.

Incredible as this statement may appear, it seems to be borne out by the details of contemporary annalists. In the church-yard of Yarmouth, 7052 persons, who died of the plague, were buried in one year. In the city of Norwich, 57,374 persons died in six months, between the first of January, and the first of July. In the city of York the mortality was equal. We find no general statement of the total amount of the mortality in London; but there are details sufficient to show

that it must have been horrible beyond imagination. The dead were thrown into pits, forty, fifty, or sixty into one; and large fields were employed as burial places, the church yards being insufficient for the purpose. No attempt was made to perform this last office with the usual care of decency. Deep and broad ditches were made, in which the dead bodies were laid in rows, and covered with earth, and surmounted with another layer of bodies, which also were covered. Sir Walter Manny (whose name is so well known from his connection with the affecting incident of the surrender of Calais to Edward III.) benevolently purchased and appropriated a burial ground, near Smithfield, in which single place more than 50,000 people were buried. Stow says that he had seen, on a stone cross in that burial ground, the following quaint inscription:

*"Anno Domini MCCCXLIX regnante magna pestilentia consecratum fait hoc cemiterium; in quo et infra septa presentis monasterii sepulta fuerunt moriuorum corpora plusquam L. M. prater alia multa abhinc usque ad presens, Quorum animabus proprietur Deus. Amen.*

This pestilence gave occasion to some diplomatic intercourse between England and France, which is strikingly characteristic of the manners of the age. While the mortality was raging in those countries, Pope Clement VI. never ceased importuning the monarchs of both to put an end to their hostility, and by so doing, to avoid the continuance of a calamity sent by heaven to punish the sins of mankind. Edward and Philip were induced by these pious exhortations to appoint commissioners, who met between Calais and St. Omers to negotiate a treaty. The French insisted on the restoration of Calais or the raising of its fortifications; a proposition which the English would not listen to.—At last, however, a truce was agreed up-

on for six months, till September following, in order to allow time to negotiate for a peace; and it was farther agreed that is, at the end of the truce, a final treaty was not concluded, the crown of France was to be brought to a convenient place within that realm, and the right to it decided by a pitched battle, without further appeal. The death of the French king, however, which happened in August 1350, before the expiration of the truce, put an end to this smooth and amicable plan of accommodation.

The mortality fell chiefly upon the lower classes of society, and among them, principally old men, women and children. It was remarked that not one king or prince of any nation died of the plague; and the English nobility and people of distinction, very few were cut off by it. Among the higher orders of the church deaths were rare; but such havoc was made among the inferior clergy, that numbers of churches were left wholly void, and without any one to perform divine service, or any offices of religion. At the same time all suits and proceedings in the courts of justice ceased; and the sitting of parliament was intermitted for more than two years.

This terrible visitation was every where attended by a total dissolution of the bonds of society. An excellent old writer gives the following eloquent description of the state of England:—"We are told the influence of this disease was so contagious, that it not only infected by a touch or breathing, but transfused its malignity, into the very beams of light and darted death from the eyes; and the very seats and garments of such proved fatal. Wherefore parents forsook their children, and wives their husbands; nor would physicians here make their visits, for neither were they able to do good to others, and they were almost certain thereby to destroy themselves. Even the priests also for the same horrid

consideration, forbore either to administer the sacraments or absolve the dying penitent. But yet neither priests, nor physicians, nor any other who sought thus to escape, did find their caution of any advantage; for death not only raged without doors as well as in chambers, but, as if it took indignation that any mortal should think to fly from it, these kind of people died both more speedily and proportionably in greater numbers. Then was there death without sorrow, affinity without friendship, wilful penance and death without scarcity, and flying without refuge or succor. For many fled from place to place because of the pestilence; some into deserts and places not inhabited, either in hope or despair. But quick-sighted destruction found them out, and nimble footed misery was ever ready to attend them. Others, having hired boats or vessels, into which they laid up provision, thought, or at least hoped, so to elude the power of the infection; but the destroying angel, like that in the Revelations, had one foot upon the waters as well as on the land; for alas! the very air they breathed being tainted, they drew in death together with life itself. The horror of these things made others to lock themselves up in their houses, gardens, and sweet retired places; but the evil they intended to exclude pursued them through all their defences, and they had this only difference, to die without the company of any that might serve to pity them. No physician could tell the cause, or describe a cure; and even what was saving to one was no less than fatal to another. No astrologer could divine how or when it would cease; the only way left was to be prepared to receive it, and the most comfortable resolution to expect it without fear."

The pestilence extended into Wales, where it raged violently; and soon afterwards, passing into Ireland, it made great havoc among the English settled in that island. But it was re-

marked that the native Irish were little affected, particularly those that dwelt in hilly districts.

As to the Scots they are said to have brought the malady upon themselves. Taking advantage of the defenceless state of England they made a hostile irruption, with a large force, into the country.—But they had not proceeded far, when the calamity which they courted, and so well deserved from their ungenerous conduct, overtook them. They perished in thousands; and in attempting to return home, they were overtaken, before they could reach the border by a strong body of English, who routed them with great slaughter. The remnant carried the disease into Scotland, where its ravages were soon as destructive as in the southern parts of the island. "Scotland," says the writer whom we have already quoted, "partook of the universal contagion in as high a degree and in the same manner, as other countries had done before; only in this there was a difference, that whereas other nations sat still and waited for it, the Scots did seem ambitious to fetch it in among themselves!" However much Scotland may have had to complain of the oppression and tyranny of England under the Edwards, it was ungenerous and unworthy of a brave people to attempt to retaliate on a nation laid prostrate by the hand of Heaven. At the same time, there is no reason to doubt that the general cause, whatever it was, of the pestilence, would at any rate have soon extended to Scotland, as well as Wales and Ireland.

Early in the year 1349, the plague began to abate in England; and by the month of August it had entirely disappeared. Its consequences, however, continued for some time to be severely felt. During the prevalence of the disease, the cattle, for want of men to tend them, were allowed to wander about the fields at random and perished in such numbers as to oc-

casion a great scarcity. Though the fields, too, were covered with a plentiful crop-of-corn, much of it was lost for want of hands to reap it and gather it in. The scarcity of hands naturally produced excessively high wages. A reaper was not to be had under eight pence a day, nor a mower under twelve pence, besides victuals; and every other sort of labor was paid in proportion.\* This gave occasion to the act of the 25th of Edward III., known by the name of the Statute of Laborers; which, on account of "the insolence of servants, who endeavored to raise upon their masters," ordained that they should be contented with the same wages and liveries which they had been accustomed to receive in the 20th year of the king. In spite of this statute, high wages continued to be given by the people who preferred doing so to losing their grain and other fruits of the earth, till Edward enforced obedience to it by severe measures both against masters and laborers. The enforcement of this statute said by old writers to have prevented a famine from raging in England, similar to the one that had afflicted other countries that had undergone the visitation of the pestilence. How far it could have produced so salutary an effect, however, may well be questioned.

The last dregs of the calamity were drained by that unfortunate race, the Jews. A belief spread over several countries that they had produced the pestilence by poisoning the wells and fountains; and in many places they were massacred in thousands by the

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\* *In the time of Edward III. ten-pence contained half an ounce of silver, and was consequently equal to half a crown of our present money. The above wages, therefore, were equivalent to two shillings of our money. At the time the quarter of wheat was then six shillings and six pence or twenty shillings of modern money.*

infuriated populace. In several parts of Germany, where this prosecution chiefly raged, the Jews were literally exterminated. Twelve thousand of them were murdered in the single city of Mentz; and multitudes of them, in this extremity of their despair, shut themselves up in their houses, and consumed themselves, and their families and property, with fire. The extent of such atrocities, in a barbarous age, may well be imagined, when we remember the outrages which were produced by the cholera panic, only a few months ago, in some parts of the continent.

Though the pestilence ceased in England in 1340 yet the destroying angel continued his progress through other regions for several years longer, marks of his presence remaining on record down to the year 1362. The world has suffered no similar visitation since; nor does its older history afford any instance of a calamity of the same kind, equally extensive and destructive. Even the pestilence so eloquently described by Gibbon, which ravaged a great part of the Roman empire, seems to have been inferior in magnitude; and the famous plague of Athens was confined within a still narrower compass. In almost every other memorable instance of the plague, it has been limited to a particular district, or even a particular city.

Our present object has been merely to collect some circumstances of the history of this most remarkable event, and not to enter into the question of the theory of pestilence. We may however observe, that not only was the great plague of which we have been speaking, preceded and accompanied by disorders of the elements, tending to produce a general corruption of the atmosphere, but the very same phenomena are recorded in the other cases where the plague extended itself over various other regions. In those eastern countries, too, where the plague is found to prevail almost

constantly, it always occurs at times and places where the atmosphere is corrupted, either by physical causes, or by the shockingly filthy habits of the inhabitants, or by both together. That a corrupted state of the atmosphere therefore is a cause of the plague, cannot be doubted; and it is a question whether, to this certain cause, it is necessary to join the additional cause of contagion. As the ascertained cause suffices to account for every fact connected with the disease, we confess we do not see the necessity for having recourse to two separate causes for the same effect. And it is a strong circumstance, that in those countries where the disease is most familiarly known, little fear is entertained of contagion. "The more intelligent among the Turks," says a recent writer on this subject, "seems to be aware that the plague is not contagious; and we are assured that they do not destroy the bedding or the clothes of those who die of the distemper, but often, immediately put them on, and wear them, without any ill effects, or the smallest apprehension from contagion."—*Wealth of Nations, Book I. chap. II.*

"Whenever the PARENT of UNIVERSAL NATURE chooses to make a mighty change in the affairs of men, he seems to effect it by, what we call, mean and humble instruments,"—*Dr. Waterhouse's Discourse on the principles of vitality.*

The founder of the Botanic System of Medicine which we advocate,—SAMUEL THOMSON. What is he? An humble son of nature, reared in the forests of New-Hampshire, but endowed by his Creator with powers of mind, which, though uncultivated by *art*, would not disgrace the greatest or best man that ever lived. There is not the least doubt that *envy* has been the principal cause of the many persecutions he has suffered. And we doubt very much whether many, even of his most inveterate enemies, can be

found, who would not undergo more than he ever did, if they could but have stood in his place, and had the same gift bestowed upon them that it was his lot to receive.

## THE RECORDER.

### COLUMBUS:

Saturday, Oct. 20, 1832.

#### *For the Recorder.*

"A TREATISE ON THE DISEASES OF THE TEETH, the cause of those diseases, with directions for preventing their occurrence. BY THOMAS WHITE, Surgeon Dentist."

The foregoing is the title of a pamphlet, the perusal of which has afforded us some *little* amusement, for which we tender the author our thanks.

As the author has complimented the "*steam doctors*" with a shot, we feel ourselves in honor bound to acknowledge it *publicly*.

As Dr. White is a dentist, he would have us believe, it would be uncharitable in the extreme to suppose but that his *sincere* desire and prayer must be, that there should never be one rotten, decaying, or painful tooth among the whole family of man. Indeed, his arguments and reasoning, are, to us, sufficient evidence of his sincerity.

Many eminent physicians of the old school, have even descended to the level of "*empirics and steam doctors*," by supposing calomel, and other "*strong medicines* (as they call them) to be injurious to the teeth." How ridiculous such an idea appears, after being told by Dr. White, (whose *pecuniary interest* requires that there should be no rotten teeth,) that the cause of rotten teeth, is owing to a *lack* of those very articles that have been *supposed* to injure them.

After describing the appearance &c.



of the teeth that decay after the patient has recovered "from a severe spell of sickness," he says, "then the physician gets the censure for giving too much medicine, when in fact he had not given enough of it, for had he stimulated the vessels of the teeth to a more vigorous action, they would have thrown off this morbid matter which is now lurking in the body of the tooth producing local inflammation and ulceration, upon the same principle as ulcers are produced in other parts of the system (the feet and legs for instance.)"

We fear the dentist has here said more than he intended, for "empirics and steam doctors" will agree, that "ulcers in the feet and legs" as well as "in other parts of the system, are often produced" upon precisely the same principle, and by precisely the same means that frequently destroy, "not only the muscles, but the bones of the face."

And here we must observe, that had Dr. Mann's\* dull intellect been touched with but one ray of the light of Dr. White's science, he never would have exposed his ignorance by advancing such ideas as the following—"calomel should never be administered, unless the patient is so situated, that the skin may be preserved in its natural warmth. If this was not attended to, during its administration, either the bowels or the glands of the mouth suffered. To one of these parts it frequently directed its whole stimulating powers, and induced on one or the other high degrees of inflammation, which terminated in mortification of the intestines, or destruction of not only the muscles but **THE BONES OF THE FACE.**"

\* Dr. Mann was a hospital surgeon, on the northern frontiers, during the last war.

"Four cases," says Dr. Mann," under these formidable effects of mercurial *ptyalism*, were admitted into the general hospital at Lewistown; three of whom died with their jaws and faces dreadfully mutilated. The fourth recovered, with the loss of the inferior maxilla one side, and **THE TEETH** on the other. He lived a most wretched life, deformed in his features, (when I last saw the patient) incapable of taking food, except through a small aperture in place of his mouth." What a pity Dr. White could not have been there, and by "giving enough," (say from three pecks to a bushel of calomel) to each patient, saved the sufferings and life of the three, and the horrid deformity of the fourth.

"I would not dwell so long upon this subject," says Dr. White, "were it not for the desire I feel, to remove if possible that common though erroneous notion, that medicine is injurious to the teeth. I know that it is a common thing for empirics and steam doctors to cry out against all strong medicines, (as they call them) as being injurious to the teeth, without being able to assign any reason therefor, except that some persons who have taken medicine, have lost their teeth."

We can assure Dr. White, that the public have too much evidence of the destructive effects of calomel and other "strong medicines" as he calls them, to be induced much longer, to submit to their use. Too many men like Dr. Mann, eminent in their profession, have depicted, in glowing colors, the truly awful effects of the "heroic medicines," for his shallow reasoning to produce much effect.

For some years past the labor of the dentist has increased, in a just ratio to the previous use of such articles, as have been imposed upon mankind as

*medicine.* These articles, the "steam doctors" never did, nor ever will acknowledge as *medicine*, either strong or weak. We view them as deadly enemies, not only to the teeth, but to every other part of the system; Our every day observance of the variously mutilated human beings around us, speaks in a language that cannot be misunderstood.

Although the Thomsonian system, has, to a vast extent, reduced the quantity of calomel and other poisonous substances given to the sick, yet Dr. White, if he is a good dentist, and would be an honest man, is in no danger, however much he may think so, of loosing business for the want of subjects, *during his life time*; for the loathsome impress of "strong medicines," are too deeply graven in the family of man, to be effaced by the efforts of one or two generations. For, truly, "the fathers have eaten sour grapes and the childrens teeth are set on edge."

#### DESULTORY EXAMINATIONS.

Whether it is owing to our perverted judgement, or whether we do *really* "make the distinction between *learning* & *knowledge*; the one teaching nonsensical doctrines, the other practical facts," let others judge. Yet so it is; that not a work can we find, the production of the self styled *learned* in medicine, but what contains more or less that has a tendency to excite, both our pity and contempt, for a profession and practice, which we believe, produces no better effect than to augment, ten thousand times ten thousand fold, the ills that flesh is heir to."

The above train of reflections were lately induced, perhaps for the thousandth time, on reading an article in "the North American Medical and Surgical Journal." No. XIX. July, 1830. We shall make a few extracts from the article under consideration, in order that

those who possess "knowledge," may judge, whether or no we have just cause for our excitement.

P. 36. "Clinical Reports; or selected cases, drawn from the practice of M. LERMINER in the *hospital of La Charite*. By C. ANDRAL, professor to the faculty in PARIS, &c. The second edition, revised, corrected and enlarged, Volume I. No. I. On the diseases of the chest.

P. 27. "ACUTE PERICARDITIS, *with characteristic symptoms.*"—Here we are presented with the history of four cases in illustration. A baker aged thirty-one, had been effected with acute rheumatism for a fortnight, when he was admitted into La Charite. At the period of his admission there existed pain, redness and swelling of the left elbow and wrist, and of the left knee and foot. During the course of the disease there occurred intense fever, red and rather dry tongue, frequent and severe headache, and tenderness of the epigastrium on pressure. In five days he was bled five times, by which he lost sixty ounces of blood; twenty leaches were then applied to the joints. Low diet, emolient drinks, and the occasional application of poultices, completed the treatment. On the sixth day there was a decided amendment, for he was free from pain. At 10 P. M. he was suddenly seized with violent pain in the chest, just below the left breast, which continued all night. Though the pain was excruciating, it was not increased by pressure, by coughing, by breathing, or by any change of position. Chest sonorous. Respiratory sound clear, and remarkably strong. Pulsation of the heart very frequent, tumultuous, intermittent, and irregular as to force. Pulse likewise intermittent, very small and easily compressed. Countenance

pale, pinched, and expressive of great anxiety. Extremities cold. Thirty leaches were applied to the region of the heart. Sinapisms were successively applied so as to cover the limbs. All, however, was in vain: the patient died in twenty-nine hours."

"The opening of the dead body exhibited the whole internal surface of the pericardium" (heart skin) "covered with an exudation, white, soft, membranous, and honey-combed. On removing this exudation, the pericardium was discovered of a bright red colour. The heart was perfectly sound. There existed adhesions of the pleura of an ancient date. The lungs were filled with a bloody serous fluid. Redness of the great curvature of the stomach. No other traces of disease in the abdomen, nor any in the brain and its meninges."

"The next case is that of a negro, who was likewise attacked with rheumatism, which was relieved by repeated bleedings, purging and the use of Dover's powders; when, on the fourth day, he was seized with pain in the epigastrium and lower part of the sternum.—Forty leaches—a large blister—A small bleeding—a large bleeding, twelve leaches and a blister—fifteen leaches were now applied, which afforded additional relief. The patient died, however, suddenly on the sixth day, dating from the period when the disease was translated to the heart."

"The inspection of the dead body exhibited" appearances similar to the first.

The writer observes, "these two cases may be considered as exquisite forms of acute pericarditis resulting from a rheumatic affection."



We should say they were "exquisite forms of acute" suffering and sudden

death, "resulting from a" *little* disease and a *great deal* of "learning."

Case third. "The patient, aged thirty-one, a shoemaker by trade, was seized on the fourth, of November, with rigors and general uneasiness. The next day he felt an acute pain just below the left pap. On the 7th he came under the notice of Dr. Andral, presenting a palid countenance, expressive of great distress, occasional sardonic grin, quivering of the lips." These were the principal symptoms; and now for the treatment, A pint of blood was taken from his arm, thirty leaches were applied to the præcordium, and sinapisms to the knees; a low diet was enjoined. The loss of twelve ounces of blood were enjoined the next day. On the 10th of November, the sixth day of the disease, the patient appeared much better. In the course of some hours he was attacked with severe dyspnœa. He could not lie down; and he complained of being bound as it were with a bar of iron. The percussion of the chest imparted a dull sound at the region of the heart and the pulsations of this organ were very obscure. He died that night." The dead body was examined of course. Then they observe; "The foregoing cases, given in an abridged form, show the manner in which clinical investigations should be conducted, exhibit also the group of symptoms generally observed in acute pericarditis; and, in the postmortem examination, identify the disease and explain some difference of feature appertaining to them severally."

The next case was that of "a stone cutter, aged thirty," it appears that he was tough enough to withstand their attacks, of course they boast of it as "a case in which the cure was happily accomplished."



We are next presented with three cases of "*Acute pericarditis without pain, but with dyspnœa.*" And, as "the foregoing cases, given in an abridged form, show the manner in which clinical investigations **SHOULD BE CONDUCTED,**" of course, these were conducted in the same manner; that is, they were bled, blistered and purged, and fifteen, and twenty, and thirty, and forty blood suckers, stuck on to them; blistered and bled till they died.  This shows "the manner in which clinical investigations should be conducted." 

Next comes a case of "*Acute pericarditis, without any characteristic symptoms.*"

"A woman aged twenty-six, the mother of two children," &c. She died in the night."

They next say, "Two similar cases are recorded by Latham, in the discourses delivered before the college of Physicians of London." &c.

The particular treatment of these two cases is not given, as they were "similar cases" however, it is natural to conclude that they received similar treatment.

What a melancholly subject is here presented for reflection.

The young student, before he passes the threshold of practice, is taught to look up to such men, to such treatment, and such results, not only with profound respect, but with veneration; he is taught to respect those professors, as being the only fountain from which real wisdom and knowledge can be derived. He is taught to believe, that such treatment as is here described, is the only rational way that those diseases can be treated. He is taught to believe, that with such treatment, if one out of ten escapes the cold embraces of death, it is almost a miracle. We should think so too!


Let any candid unprejudiced mind reflect but for one moment, upon the treatment as here laid down, with the sanction of great names and high sounding titles, and then ask reason, common sense and analogy, to point out the result. Let him imagine, if you please, the result of such treatment upon ten of the most robust and vigorous men that can be found. Let them be subjected to continued rounds of bleeding, of blistering, of purging, besides being deprived of nourishing food, and infested with swarms of blood suckers of two species for five or six days, and what must be the scene presented to his mind. Humanity, perhaps, may prompt him to hope that one still holds on, a ghastly form indeed, yet with sufficient sensibility to feel the thrilling pangs that are fast separating the feeble cords that yet connect him to the living. As for the other nine, he may, with the poet, attempt to sooth his tortured feelings in the following melancholy strain:

"The scene of death is closed! the mournful strains

    Dissolve in dying languor on the ear;  
Yet pity weeps, yet sympathy complains,

    And dumb suspense awaits o'erwhelmed with fear."      Eds.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE LEGALLY PURCHASED THE RIGHT.

 All purchasers of Rights can have intercourse with each other for advise, by showing their Receipt. All those who partake, or have participated, in stolen rights, or what is virtually the same, have bought them of Smith and others who have no right to sell, can show no receipt, either from me or any of my Agents, and are not to be patronized by you or any honest man, as they are liable to sixty dollars fine for each and every trespass. Hold no counsel or advice with them, nor with any who shall pretend to have made any improvement on the System of Practice, as I cannot be responsible for the effect of any such improvement. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."—JAMES.      S. T.

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**COMMUNICATIONS.**


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*To the Editors of the Thomsonian Recorder.*

GENTLEMEN:

I have seen with peculiar satisfaction the first number of your periodical, and cordially approve of your design. The world has long been imposed upon, by those who confound the technical sciolist with the man possessed of genuine professional knowledge. If he be fluent in the use of terms peculiar to any art or science, the multitude are ready to conclude that he is a man of profound learning. If a livid discoloration appearing about the orifice, made by a lancet in bleeding a patient, be called by the attending physician, *ECCHYMOSIS*, the very novelty of the term, to ears unaccustomed to the harsh and uncouth jargon of the schools, if it be accompanied with a certain specific dignified air of self-complaicency, carries with it an imposing impression of consequential importance. But suffer me candidly to inquire, if mere book knowledge and school tuition, will enable a man to navigate an ocean of a thousand leagues, who has never acquired a practical knowledge of the art of navigation? How is it possible that books and lectures, can make a safe and skillful physician of any man, who has not been faithfully attentive, at the bedside of the sick and afflicted, where a knowledge is to be obtained that can not be derived from any other source! Converse with this man, he will not be so impolite and intrusive, as to talk in an unknown tongue. He will satisfy your inquiries, by a plain, straightforward, gentlemanly communication of his ideas: They are clothed with the wisdom and knowledge that is real and interesting. He tells you what his eyes have seen, his ears have heard, and hands have handled, among the groans, the pains and agonies of the sick and wounded. It is by virtue of these practical attentions, observa-

tions, experiences and contemporaneous humane sympathies, the energies of the mind are roused to useful action—action, essential to the acquirement of that knowledge, deemed indispensable, to entitle any man to the reputation of a safe and skillful physician. It is by knowledge so obtained, that nurses and old women have so often succeeded in curing diseases, where the nurslings of the schools, confounded, baffled and discouraged, have relinquished the unhappy sufferers as passed all remedial aid, and abandoned them to hapless despair.

The plain common sense man knows that jalap will purge his bowels, mercury salivate the salivary glands, emetic tartar excite vomiting, and Thomson's lobelia and warming medicines will open the pores of the body and promote perspiration. The idea, and the operation of these medicines are the same in every language under heaven. A man of competent mind—a sane, rational, active, enterprising genius, knowing only his maternal tongue, being personally, practically and experimentally acquainted with these remedies, the usual mode of administration, and their ordinary effects—is better qualified to officiate as a physician, than the most accomplished linguist destitute of these advantages. I have been led to these remarks by reading and reflecting on the writings of Dr. Samuel Thomson. Men of small minds, the dupes of their more knowing neighbors, whose motives are not always pure, condemn unheard, unexamined, what they do not understand. Others of stronger intellect, being themselves physicians, or the fathers, brothers, uncles, aunts or thirty second cousins, of some regular physician, they feel for the dignity, reputation and interest of themselves or their favorites. They feel a deep stake in advancing their standing in society. They discover that the plainness, simplicity and successfulness of Doctor Thomson's scheme of medical prac-

tice, raises up competitors in every quarter,—prejudice, rank, stale, deadly prejudice, rankles in their breasts,—they stupidly prefer death, at the hands of a regular doctor, a college made doctor, to life and health, at the hands of Dr. Thomson or his adherents.—What is more surprising is, that so many resist conviction. True, the Thomsonian cause is looking up. His system is progressing;—confessions, supporting its reputation for successfulness, are daily accumulating. But for truth's sake, for the honor of human nature, we wish to see a cessation of that relentless hostility, that is often to be met—that when men's lives are in jeopardy, they may betake themselves to such remedies, as reason, observation and experience demonstrate are always safe—more uniformly and certainly beneficial, than any with which the world has been formerly acquainted, and never known to injure, when judiciously and faithfully applied. We have line upon line, testimony crowding upon testimony, to evince the efficacy of his medicine; yet many will obstinately confront the whole weight of testimony, giving heed to seducing spirits, leading them astray from the simple and efficient prescriptions in the “*NEW GUIDE TO HEALTH.*” A mad dog, passing thro' the vicinity of my residence, about two month ago, bit several hogs, dogs and other animals that have since died. A certain Mr. A. C. F. had two valuable dogs bitten and badly worried and torn by him. Having some knowledge of the Thomsonian remedies for hydrophobia, he immediately applied to me for some *LOBELIA*. I furnished a quantity of the seeds, gave directions to give the same in divided portions, of about a teaspoonful at a time, once or twice a day, for several days. The prescription was faithfully attended to, and no symptom of disease has appeared in either of his dogs. The remedy has been tried in Cincinnati, and in various parts of the United

States, on human subjects, with equal success. Persons actually mad have speedily recovered, by using Thomsonian medicine. But nothing discovers the perversity and absurdity of men's minds, or a baser dereliction of correct principles, than the stoic apathy, and indifference of many, to the Thomsonian remedy for the *CHOLERA*. While this life-wasting plague is raging, threatening to spread its desolating breath from “*Darién to Davis;*” Thomson has found a remedy. A remedy, successful beyond every expedient that men have resorted to. We have evidence on this point, beyond the power of malevolence to contradict: But gentlemen, you may see in almost every town and village, some pedantic quack venting his spleen and retailing tales of infamous slander.—The fopling-froth and scum of the faculty, look with jealous eye at Thomson's fame. Shall this poor wise man, untaught, unaided by the schools, persecuted, imprisoned and enchained by the falsehoods, stratagems and malice of the faculty, the regular faculty and their abettors? Shall he teach us wisdom? Shall he instruct college graduates the healing art? Whence hath this man letters? away with him!—Crucify him!!!

For one, I sincerely hope, that the people will not suffer themselves to be hoodwinked, by artful and designing men; whose eyes are closed by pride and stupid prejudice against the truth \* \* \* \* \* The *RECIPE* for the *Cholera Syrup*, as given in your first number, should be thankfully received by the community. In this open, candid measure, we see nothing of the sly, secret, course of quackish ignorance; but you have displayed the white flag of philanthropy and benevolence—you will consider me your friend and patron, and an advocate of Dr. Thomson. Envy and ambition may sicken and madden at the laurels that gather round his venerable brow, but can ne'er pluck a flower from the imper-

ishable wreath of glory the gratitude of unborn generations shall confer.

HONESTUS.

Extract of letters from R. Ferriss to Pike, Platt & Co.

New-York, Sept. 1st, 1832.

Gentlemen—We sail at 2 o'clock this day, on board the brig Lawrence, T. Fanning, Master. The Lawrence is the first and only vessel that sails for Charleston, for quite a number of days.

We are both in good health. We hear but little of the cholera. The people are recovering from their fright, and many who had left the city have returned. In haste,

R. FERRISS.

On board the brig Lawrence, off Charleston, Sept. 11th.

Gentlemen—We have just arrived, and found the port under quarantine regulations. We have to remain here eight days before we can land, so you see the *wise ones* allow the Cholera eighteen days for gestation. As soon as we are permitted to land, I shall proceed to Winnsborough without delay. I have just written to friend Carlisle, informing him of our attendance at church, as the sailors term it.

We are still in the enjoyment of perfect health, and good spirits.

Respectfully, R. FERRISS.

Winnsborough, S. C. Sept. 30th.

We arrived here on the twentieth; our boxes and barrels arrived yesterday from Charleston, a distance of 146 miles by land. I have been busily engaged in writing to our different agents, and correspondents in this and the surrounding states, informing them of my arrival, &c.

Carlisle has been doing a fine business since I left him last spring. I suspect he has done more than any other one of our agents in this section, although I have not yet seen or heard from any of them. Mr. Carlisle and myself commence a tour on the third of October. I am not able to say how

soon we shall return. It is probable we shall be out all next month at least. The demand for rights and medicine is rapidly increasing, and Thomson and his system are at least *beginning* to receive that respect and attention which they so justly merit, and altho' the expenses of the company have been great, I expect our returns will soon repay us, for the demand is evidently increasing, and I have no doubt will continue to increase, in spite of all the opposition that can be brought against the system by way of false reports, legal enactments, Reformed College or *misimproved* systems, for as Robinson truly observes in his Lectures, "The dawn has broke upon us." The light of Thomson's System has removed the veil from the eyes of too many, to admit a doubt but what "the time is coming and now is" that all other systems must be abandoned.

Respectfully, R. FERRISS.

For the Thomsonian Recorder.

MESSES. EDITORS,

Having enjoyed a long and intimate acquaintance with Thomson's System of medical practice, I have reflected with infinite pleasure, on the open, candid, ingenuous manner, in which he divulges to the world the secrets of his art, and pours the rain of his benevolence far and near. The acquirement of useful knowledge is a very desirable attainment—To diffuse that knowledge, for the common weal is a noble exercise of christian liberality, conferring a debt of unfeigned gratitude upon the whole community. I am warmly disposed to bestow the meed of deserved praise, on the worthy author of the "New Guide" &c—But Dr. Thomson has no where told us, that his discoveries foreclose all others, so far from it that he wishes to gather his friends, from the four winds, and to congratulate, congregate and embody the knowledge of all, knowing that a cord of many strands is not easily

broken wishing for the complete prosperity, and ultimate triumph, of the great and good work, in which you are engaged, I have seized my pen to make a communication for your columns. While theological and political disputants are arrayed against each other, ambitious of rivalry, emolument, and fame, I wish only to be useful to my fellow beings, and to contribute, my mite *pro bono publico*. If I possessed the quill driving skill of some of our modern competitors for authorship, I might lengthen out my introduction, and come more tediously to the point; but not to weary your patience.

I will just inform you that I have been regularly and extensively engaged in medicine, for many years—I have been myself subject to a tedious and unmanageable erysipelas, and have met with many patients suffering severely by the same complaint. This disease has been frequently called *st. Anthony's fire*—sometimes the *shingles*, and sometimes the ROSE. It is a florid efflorescence, or eruption of a fiery humour on the surface of the body, sometimes on the arms, but more frequently on the face. The old custom has been to bleed liberally, give tartrate of antimony, and if any external application was used, quicksilver ointment, was the common remedy—after I became acquainted with the Thomsonian practice, I distinctly recollected the benefits of PEDILUVIUM *that is*, bathing the feet, frequently in warm water, and giving warm diluting drinks. These were the remedies that always gave some relief—I reasoned from analogy, and determined on steaming, and a regular course, agreeably to T's prescriptions—notwithstanding the success, the eruptions being sometimes deep seated, and the cuticle, or scarf skin peeling off, I had recourse to the application, of an external remedy, which in burns, cutaneous ulcerations of the shins, stinging of bees, wasps, hornets &c. exceeds all other remedies that I have ever

tried. The remedy is simply, the *compound tincture of Benzoin*—sometimes sold under the name of *Balsam of life*, or *Friar's Balsam* or *Turkington's Balsam*. It may be bought at the apothecaries, or be prepared by taking of Benzoin 3 ozs. purified storax 2 ozs. Balsam of Tolu 1 oz. socotrine aloes  $\frac{1}{2}$  an oz. rectified spirits of wine viz. alcohol 2 pints. Let the articles stand and digest eight or ten days, in a warm situation, and then filter for use—when applied to burns, eruptions &c. pour a little into a spoon or cup, and with a feather, gently bathe the part affected, repeating every two or three hours for several times—it may be necessary in some cases, to continue the occasional application longer than in others, the parts being deeply affected will be longer in healing sound. In the interim between steaming (for this ought to be repeated until the complaint subsides) the frequent bathing of the feet and taking the warming medicine, in no case of erysipelas must ever be neglected.

Whoever tries the above prescription faithfully, and perseveringly, for the first time, will find his most sanguine expectations far exceeded.

If the above meets with your approbation it is at your disposal—should you think proper to give this article an insertion in the Thomsonian Recorder, it is highly probable you may hear from me again.

N. B. The above prescription is considered, as strictly belonging to the surgical department of medicine—it does not interfere with, nor set aside Dr. Thomson's remedies—all cures of erysipelas require the aid of his medicine—The Balsam is strictly a vegetable preparation, is perfectly safe, and efficacious beyond what any one would imagine, that had not made trial of its medical power when applied agreeably to the above directions.

M \* \* \* d F \* \* \* d.



## COLUMBUS:

Saturday, Oct. 20, 1832.

### PASSING EVENTS.

We are happy to be able to announce with confidence, that this town remains remarkably healthy for the season. We have not yet been visited by the asiatic cholera, or epidemic of any kind—while our Atlantic cities, and many towns and cities northward, southward, and westward, have been severely scourged, and are now groaning beneath the deadly gripe of the desolating messenger, that has filled the world with many terrors; the voice of health and gladness prevails through all our borders. The busy hum of universal industry enlivens our streets, our market is abundantly supplied with the productions of the passing year. This demands our grateful acknowledgments of that munificent hand that bestows our daily bread. The whole adjacent country is reported to be healthy.

While we solace ourselves in the enjoyment of so many blessings, conferred on our highly favored town and its vicinities, we feel a deep and mournful sympathy, for those places that have been, or now are laboring under the desolating plague, that has laid waste many of the fairest portions of Europe, leaving but a small proportion of survivors, to transmit to posterity, the tragic tale of human woe they have been doomed to witness.

Reports from Cincinnati are various and contradictory—The cholera commenced its work of death simultaneously, on the 8th instant in different parts of the city—the inhabitants were flying to the country—business has made a solemn pause—but the disorder, by more recent accounts was on the decline. Whether those who have fled to the mountains and hills to cover them from the impending evil, will find greater security in the country than in the city, time alone must deter-

mine. It is rational to suppose, that in crowded cities, the air is more contaminated, than in country situations—more unfit for respiration, and more favorable to the propagation of pestilence of any kind—but we have yet to learn that cholera is contagious—Its appearance simultaneously in different parts of the city, is evidence beyond contradiction, that the sufferers did not contract the malady one from another. Some large towns have remained healthy, while the surrounding country has been roughly handled, and hurried in multitudes to the grave.

From facts like these we should learn lessons of humanity, to be attentive and hospitable towards the sick and dying—and to perform those offices of kindness and charity, that we would wish to realize, in case of an exchange of circumstances.

The destinies of men are regulated by second causes—These causes it is our high prerogative, carefully to explore, to the utmost extent of human abilities, and to seek after and employ those remedies, heaven has provided and placed at our disposal. But in no case can we be justified in abandoning the hapless sufferer, or ceasing to exercise that benevolence and to administer all the tender charities that reason, humanity and religion imperiously demand.

The Cleaveland Advertiser of the 13th instant states—"A few cases of the Cholera have occurred in Cleaveland since our last, which have in most instances terminated fatally."

In most of the cholera accounts we notice a studied obscurity—There is nothing of that minute definiteness and precision which satisfies the mind. You might as easily take the dimensions of an autumnal fog, or define the colors of a chameleon, as to ascertain with exactness the real truth. There are some honorable exceptions to these remarks, and we do wish editors, every where, to give the most plain, min-



ute and satisfactory details in their power.

*Extract of a letter.*

A letter from an intelligent and respectable gentleman dated, Hamilton Oct. 15th 1832; contains the following interesting particulars, addressed to Messrs. Pike, Platt and Co. "Before this can reach you, you will have heard of the spreading of the Cholera in Cincinnati—the population are flying in every direction; there is no better proof, it is the strongest testimony, against the old practice, that the people have no confidence in it; either to prevent or cure the disease. While those of the community, who rely on the old practice, are trembling, and almost distracted with fear—the friends of the Thomsonian System, who have experienced its salutary and certain blessings, are as calm and unruffled as a summer's sea, when not a breath of wind blows o'er its surface. This may be called nonsense by the old practitioners, but if they could hear their old friends talk, as we do, they would begin to tremble for their craft. It is a fact, that if the people were not afraid to speak out, the old practice party might hear them; yes, hundreds of them do say, "that they believe there is more security in the Thomsonian prescriptions than in any other: was it not for the unconstitutional and unlawfully privileged protection of the old, the equally unconstitutional, unjust and unrighteous persecutions of the new practice, at this moment, a large body of the community, would rely on the new in preference to the old. However, the people are beginning to talk, and enquire *how they shall be saved?* We are determined to act and show them how. The time has arrived for us to act, we will try to improve it. We have flattering hopes of obtaining some hundreds to the petition—It is reported, and believed, here, that the Thomsonian practice is taking the lead of every thing else at

this time, in Cincinnati. We expect information shortly that will be supported with names—as soon as that arrives our society will meet and publish their doings to the world—you may expect several delegates to the Convention on the 7th of Dec. from this vicinity."

At an adjourned meeting of the Thomsonian Botanic Society, and their friends, held at Waters Tavern, on the evening of July 9th, 1832, S. GREGORY was called to the chair, and N. M. STRATTON appointed Secretary.

After the meeting was organized, it was on motion,

*Resolved*, that a committee of five be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting.—Where upon it was

*Resolved*, That Messrs. HALL, ELSWORTH, Morris; and Britton, compose said committee.

The following preamble and resolutions were reported, and unanimously adopted by the meeting:

Whereas, in the late excitement, caused by the sudden death of Mr. J. E. Prescott, and seconded by the inveterate malice of the enemies of the Thomsonian practice of Medicine, a base and unprincipled attack was made upon the moral character of Doct. A. I. COFFIN, with a direct view to weaken the public confidence in the integrity of the man, the members of the Friendly Botanic Society, resident in Troy, having witnessed with no small degree of regret, the artful endeavors of the medical craft, and their dupes, to bring the Thomsonian practice of Medicine into disrepute, and to injure the moral standing of Doct. Coffin, do most cordially adopt the following resolutions, as expressive of our deep feeling upon this occasion.

*Resolved*, That we sincerely deprecate the case of dire necessity, that has called us forth, to combat the combined influence of the medical craft, and official wickedness, so strongly manifested, in the recent efforts that have been

directed against the Thomsonian practice of medicine, the moral standing of our fellow-citizen, Doct. A. I. Coffin, and their attempts to deceive the public.

Resolved, That as the presses of our country, are considered as so many sentinels of civil and religious liberty, the late disposition of the editors and printers of the *Troy Sentinel*, and the *Troy Budget*, to frustrate the attempts of an honest minded individual to bring his case fairly before the public, we consider to be unworthy the character of men professing independence, and serving the execration of all honest men.

Resolved, That we regard the refusal of the *Troy Budget* and *Sentinel* to publish a statement of facts connected with the sudden death of Mr. Prescott, as a manifestation of a spirit hostile to the claims of injured innocence; and subversive of the object for which the press is established in this country.

Resolved, That we view the present as a crisis in the history of the Thomsonian practice of Medicine, that calls loudly upon its votaries and those friendly to the cause of truth, to unite their efforts to bring its merits before the public: And, that it is the duty of every friend who feels an interest in the success of truth, to give his support to the institution established in this city for that purpose.

Resolved, That we view the recent attempts of the medical craft, and of the enemies of Botanic Medicine, to prostrate the character and reputation of one of our citizens, by the circulation of base and slanderous falsehoods respecting his morals and medical practice, a foul stain upon the character of this city, that should be wiped away by a sincere avowal of the facts connected with the late melancholy event.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chair-

man and Secretary and published in the *Troy Statesman*.

S. GREGORY, President.

N. M. STRATTON, Sec'y.

The St. Petersburg Academical Gazette contains the following account of an extraordinary phenomenon, from a letter dated Moscow May 2:—"In March last there fell, in the fields of the village of Kourian, thirteen visits from Volokolamsk, a combustible substance of a yellowish color, at least two inches thick, and covering a superficies of between 600 and 700 square feet.—The inhabitants at first thought it was snow but on examination it appeared to have the properties of cotton, having on being torn the same tenacity; but on being put in a vessel filled with water, it assumed the consistence of rosin. On being put to the fire in its primitive state, it burn and sent forth a flame like spirits of wine! but in its resinous state it boiled on the fire without becoming inflamed, probably because it was mixed with some portion of the snow from which it had been taken. After a more minute examination, the rosin had the color of amber, was elastic like Indian rubber, and smelt like prepared oil mixed with wax."

"*Church and State!*"—"You must be careful, or you will get the Cholera; said a person a few days since to a disciple of Bacchus: "Don't tell me such stuff," said he,—"I understand all about it: this *cholera* is all a plan of the priests to unite Church and State!"—The above is a fact, that actually occurred a few weeks since, in one of our country villages."—*Genius Temp.*

A letter from Vienna, estimates the number of deaths by cholera in the Austrian dominions at 400,000, viz:—220,000 in Hungary, 100,000 in Galicia, 80,000 in Bohemia, Moravia and Austria.

A few weeks since we announced that fourteen Sisters of Charity had left St. Joseph's Emmitsburg, for the purpose of attending on the sick and dying in the cholera hospitals in Philadelphia; and we now have the pleasure to state that eight sisters departed from Frederick yesterday morning, to attend in the hospitals of Baltimore. Their self devotion is an admirable evidence of the purity of the principles which govern them, and must endear them to the friends of humanity. —*Fredericktown paper.*

Gov. CARROLL, of Tennessee, who was appointed by the President, one of the Commissioners to treat with the Indians, has declined the appointment, believing its acceptance incompatible with the office of Governor of Tennessee.

The Board of Health of Wilmington report from the 17th to the 21st of September, 21 cases of Cholera, and six deaths.

The first printing press was set up in Pennsylvania, in 1685, by William Bradford. He resided at Shackamaxon, (now Kensington,) the scene of the great treaty. The first work printed there was the Almanack, which contained the offensive words 'Lord Penn.' The edition was suppressed by Penn himself.

A number of young ladies in Trenton, N. J. have formed an association for taking care of the sick.

The Boston Daily Advertiser of Monday, says—No cases of the Cholera have occurred in the city, excepting the two on Wednesday last, which terminated fatally. The city enjoys an unusual degree of health.

*Poughkeepsie.*—The village continues free of the cholera, consequently, the board of Health make no report.

*New York,* no report. *Albany,* number of cases in the month of July 632, deaths 208; number of cases in

August 515, deaths 163; whole number of cases since commencement 1,147, deaths 401. *Rochester,* 379 cases, 105 deaths—subsiding. *Utica,* the disease has nearly all subsided. *Quebeck and Montreal,* nearly all subsided. *Philadelphia,* Sept. 1, new cases 18, deaths 3. *Baltimore,* August 31, deaths 30; Sept 1st, deaths 20. *Washington city,* August 31, cases 18, deaths 3. *Brooklyn N. Y.,* Sept 2, deaths 7. *Norfolk,* Aug. 27, deaths 3, *Fortress Monroe,* since Aug. 20th, 30 cases, 14 deaths.—*Independence.*

### AFRICAN COLONIZATION.

Five hundred pounds sterling have been contributed in England to the funds of the American Colonization Society, through E. Cresson, the Agent of the Society, now in England.

### EXTRACTS.

#### INQUISITIVENESS IN CHILDREN.

A great deal of care is needful in our mode of disposing of the sometimes absurd and often strange and teasing questions of children. The first efforts of the mind, like the first movements of the body, may seem proper subjects of mirth to the observer. But it is not safe to meet thus the advances of an infant, who looks to its elders for guidance at every step. The sense of shame is very early in its operations, and being laughed at is no comfortable thing even to a child. Do not expect to be sought a second time with readiness for information, by one whose inquiries, however simple, you have put by, with an emphatic "Pshaw! Nonsense!—How do I know?" Much less suppose that the crude conceptions of a child will be as frankly exposed to you after you have made them your sport. If a question can be answered it ought to be—and that in such a way as shall serve to correct the mistakes of him who presents it without causing him to feel as if he ought to be ashamed for having made them. And there are other methods of allaying a curiosity which you are unable to satisfy, than harshly shutting up the lips of the little enquirer by

a frown, or driving him as a troublesome intruder from your presence. Surely no parent would grudge a half hour's time from any pursuit, to be devoted to the communication of that knowledge, which being eagerly asked for, cannot fail to be received with pleasure, and therefore be the better remembered. Similar cautions might be made in regard to the manner of treating the mistakes of children.

Let me relate an anecdote of a child of five years which lately came under my knowledge. He was a boy of quick feelings, and one of the most pertinacious little questioners I ever saw. Being at a country village not far from the city, he was eager to make use of the liberty he enjoyed there, by going into every house and shop, and seeing what every body was doing. One afternoon he sauntered with some other children, till they came where through the open door of a shoe-maker's shop, were seen half a dozen men smartly plying the thread and awl. Charles had never seen this work done—and sat himself down immediately to look on. An hour or two after, he came breathless into the parlor where his friends were sitting, and burst forth with the history of the wonders he had witnessed. He had gained a pretty good notion of the employment, but did not know what was attached to the thread in order to pass it so quickly into the hole made for its reception, nor the name of the instrument by which the leather is pierced. He said, "the man was sewing up leather with a fork; and some twine, with pig's feathers in the end of it." A loud laugh from the company made the poor little fellow color deeply, and instantly run out of the room. He was seen to go directly to the shop he had lately quitted, and his return was awaited with some impatience. In a few moments he entered again—but with an offended air he exclaimed, "I have asked the man and he told me they were bristles and he made the holes with an awl. Why didn't you tell me, and not go to laughing at me?" His rebuke was felt and recollected.

*Letters to a Parent.*

If we take a retrospective view of the science of Medicine with its alter-

ations and *improvements* in the last two centuries, the medical annals of this period will present us with a series of learned dissertations by authors whose names alone are now remembered, while their writings, under the specious term *improvement*, have left us only the deplorable consolation of knowing that their works have heaped system upon system, prescript upon prescript, error upon error, each in turn yielding to its follower. Year after year produces a new advocate for a new theory of diseases, each condemning its predecessor, and each alike to be condemned by its successor. We wish a more rational mode adopted for the promotion of medical knowledge, than hair-brained theories and doubtful facts. Observation, practice, and experience in the administration of medicine, with its effects on the system, may take the lead of scholastic learning and hard names. We must have facts instead of opinions, reason instead of theory, knowledge instead of titles and certificates.—*R's. Lectures.*

## POETRY.

### OUR COMMON MOTHER.

When art thou fairest, Nature? When  
her hood

Pale twilight drops, and o'er the quiet vale

Forth, to hear within the silent wood

The plaintive story of the nightingale ;

And, in the dim and drowsy light of eve,

The spider loves its subtle snare to weave.

Or art thou fairest in the morning hour,

When daylight dances on the daisied lea ;

And birds sing forth their matins from the bower,

And blossom-banners float from every tree:

When sunshine sparkles from the stream, and all

The jocund earth seems one bright festal hall?

Nay, thou art ever fair! in every mood,  
Through every season, and at every hour!

'Tis but the heart where sinful thoughts intrude,  
That doubts thy beauty, and rejects thy power:

Why—why should evil mingle with our blood,  
Since only they are happy who are good?

Thine is a glorious volume Nature! each  
Line, leaf, and page are filled with living lore:

Wisdom more pure than sage could ever teach,  
And all philosophy's divinest store

### PREMIUM.

A premium of TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS will be given for the best written Essay upon the subject of the Unconstitutionality, Injustice, and Injurious Effects, resulting from our present aristocratical Medical Law.

### CONDITIONS.

1st. All Essays for the premium must be accompanied with a sealed letter, containing the writer's name and place of residence, and forwarded *free of postage*, to Pike, Platt, & Co., Columbus, Ohio, on or before the tenth of December next.

2d. If two Essays are presented of unequal length, but corresponding in force of argument, the shortest will receive the premium if of equal merit.

If the above conditions are complied with, then we agree to examine each Essay carefully, with a desire to put the best construction upon the writer's language, in order, as far as possible, to get his true ideas, and decide accordingly.

After the decision, we shall open the accompanying letter, and affix the author's name to the Essay that shall be considered the best, and publish it in the next succeeding number of the RECORDER.

The other Essays, together with the accompanying letter, shall be kept until the first of February, if not sooner called for, when the letters will be burned *without opening*, and we shall consider ourselves at liberty to publish the Es-

says, with such signatures as the writers may affix to them.

PIKE, PLATT, & Co.  
Columbus, 10th Sept. 1832.

The following persons are authorized and requested to act as Agents for the RECORDER.

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J. Wampler Esq. *Sutherland's P. O.*  
*Edgar co.*

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*rus co.*

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## PENNSYLVANIA.

## MAINE.

Stephen Sewell *Scarborough.*  
 Nicholas Smith. *Exeter.*  
 John Shaw *do.*  
 Frederick Plummer, *Philadelphia.*

Our friends are requested to forward us the names of persons suitable for agents in such places as they may deem proper where none are appointed. Our eastern agents, where it is more convenient, can remit the a-

mount of their subscriptions to Dr. Thomson, Boston Mass., whose receipt will be the same as ours.

## For the Recorder.

## Stanzas.

"And love, constancy and perfection,  
 dwelleth alone in regions above."

We see the beauteous roses bloom,  
 Then quickly fade away;  
 We follow to the silent tomb  
 The beautiful and gay.

Bright visions charm the happy soul  
 In Youth's unclouded sky;  
 But soon the dreadful Fates unveil  
 A gloomy Destiny.

Our fruitful minds aspiring rise,  
 To brighter, purer spheres;  
 Where glit'ring gems and starry skies,  
 Shall calm our pains and fears.

THESE lasting beauty—not of earth,  
 Or from the CRYSTAL SEA,  
 Will sing in endless peans of mirth  
 Throughout ETERNITY.

*Fruits of Slavery.*—The London "World of 25th June, contains a thrilling account of the outrages committed upon the English missionaries in the West Indies, by the Whites, while the colored people were their protectors. In one instance a white man had been prosecuted and fined for protecting the wife and infant child of a missionary.

.....

Cash received for the Recorder, the receipt of which has not been otherwise acknowledged:—

Kentucky. D. Darby, S. Union,  
 \$1.—Samuel Chaslain, \$2.—Wm. E.  
 Dawson, do. \$2.

*Errata.*—No. 1, page 12, for Fifth *Disclosure* of the Lady of the Rotunda, read Fifth *Discourse*, &c.

We shall forward this work to some few publishers of periodicals, with whom we would like to exchange, if they please.



# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense."

Vol. I. COLUMBUS, Nov. 3, 1832. No. 3.

## DESULTORY ESSAYS,

On medical practice, ancient and modern, embracing various incidents of the Thomsonian System, and illustrations of the importance of the Thomsonian practice, to the safety and happiness of community.

By HONESTUS.

### ESSAY 1.

#### System of Medicine.

I. It would require a volume of extraordinary size, and time and labor, exceeding the abilities of the most talented individual, to give the names, or title pages, of half the authors, who have started and attempted to defend some new theory, in relation to febrile diseases, and the long catalogue of complaints incident to human nature.

II. The discrepant doctrines, jarring and contradictory expositions of the general principles of medical science, by which they have pompously essayed to enlighten the world, have served rather to confuse, confound, and deeply cloud the understanding, and lead the honest enquirer after truth, wide of the mark.

III. The controversies resulting from these multifarious hallucinations, have been conducted by every conceivable variety of genius, talent and disposition, from the days of Hippocrates, the immortal Father of Physic, down \* \* \* down to the moping, ploding, speculating sciolist, H \* \* \* H \* \* \* whose plagiarism is too notorious to escape observation, too contemptible for sober animadversion, or trivial labour of incidental criticism.

IV. These reputed oracles of medical science, who have distinguished themselves, as the champions of learned controversy, have glutted Europe and America by their voluminous productions. Many have become eminent for the endless sever-

ity of the censures they have heaped on each other. By their physiological, pathological, and Therapeutical inconsistencies, consecutive discordancy and violence of opposition have sinned against common sense—Their conflicting theories have been derived from the different and differing universities, whence they have obtained their education; every party exhibits a portrait of the verbose, fantastical, dissentious philosophy of their respective professors. The lenient hand of charity strives in vain to consign their illiberal and unprofitable litigations to the deep shade of deserved oblivion.

V. These remarks have not originated in any personal resentment against the Faculty—They are not the spawn of that malignity, so often indulged against any one who may attempt to call in question the medical infallibility of the craft, or doubt a moment the legitimacy of their claims to diplomatic prerogatives, who is not himself attached to the parchment corps.

VI. The regular faculty claim, not only to possess an exclusive right to the knowledge of medicine, but to vilify and abuse each other. Arrayed in the panoply of academic honors, they assume privilege to assault each other with high toned raillery—but we pleabians must hold our tongues. If the learned Barrister or reverend Divine, presumes to hesitate, or indulge a momentary doubt of their superior sagacity, he must hold himself amenable, and be exposed to a regular lampooning, and a stormy shower of the billingsgate technicalities peculiar to the order.

VII. If our graduates and learned professors, have never arrived at any certainty in medical science, if they still float on the broad sea of conjecture, or make moonlight excursions in

regions of delusive fancy, what avails the time and money expended for their education? If they have not any established principles among themselves, if they be almost universally dissatisfied with each other, and wander like Noah's dove without a resting place, what encouragement have we to become their disciples? or how justify that obsequious homage and servile adulation, secured, by the nominal honor conferred by a Diploma, obtained by some means, from some medical institution, that owes its importance to the patronage of the state, however obtained?

VIII. We know the faculty can justly boast of men, whose extensive erudition would be an honor to any of the learned professions—these, in the lucid seasons of calm reflection, sacred to reason and common sense, rise superior to that sordid selfishness, that too often perverts, corrupts and measurably deranges sound minds.

IX. An intelligent writer in the "western journal of the medical and physical sciences" has expressed his sentiments on a point intimately connected with our subject, with a firmness and precision, that no doubt, had the same language dropped from the pen of a Thomsonian writer, it would have drawn down upon him the indignant frowns, of the whole graduated fraternity and loaded him heavily with hard names and abusive epithets.

X. It has fallen to our lot," saith the writer alluded to, "to have a full opportunity of observing the management and utility of collegiate instruction in the United States; and we have no hesitation in saying, that its advantages are very generally misapprehended, and its importance entirely overrated. There are no schools which have been estimated so extravagantly, and which do so little to meet the public expectation, as those of medicine."

XI. "Before the invention of the art of printing, when learning was confined to the halls of Universities,

the treasures of science could be obtained only through the medium of public lectures; but at the present time when the student, at an expense scarcely superior to that of a course of Lectures, can collect in his study the united experience and observation of the profession, and can study, compare and arrange at his leisure the opinions of the most distinguished men, a course of lectures can be useful only as subsidiary, and strictly subordinate to a well regulated plan of reading, and a judicious use of the other advantages, which ought to be afforded by institutions of this kind.

XII. Lectures may be useful by establishing an elevated standard of professional excellence, by inspiring a love of fame and a professional feeling, by directing the labors of the student, and animating his progress; but the variety and extent of the sciences subsidiary to medicine, are too great to admit of any plan of oral instruction, supplying the place of patient investigation in the steady, and unremitting labor in the field of observation. "It requires," adds our author, "A well regulated mind, with a very considerable degree of information, to hear lectures, with much advantage, under any circumstances. But in the medical schools of this country, these things are managed in the *worst possible manner*. The great desideratum appears to be, to deliver the greatest possible number of lectures in the shortest time; the whole circle of medical literature is to be hurried through in the space of less than four months."

XIII. From the brief survey we have taken of the whole ground, relating to our popular medical institutions, what an oracle of science must that young man be, whose natural talents have scarcely arrived to a comfortable mediocrity, who has never acquired a habit of close thinking, or arranging his ideas with accuracy on any subject, but he has been hastily lectured into a man of wisdom. The

legislature of Ohio has determined, that one course of lectures, in some one of these temples of science, attended, perhaps with wandering eyes and heedless ears, to the attitude, gestures, and incessant volubility, of some professors tongue, shall constitute this individual, or, entitle him to become a member of any one medical society in the state. Let the lectured dunce produce satisfactory evidence of such attendance, and he is a man of science, a philosopher, and a physician. If such be the foundation of our medical institutions and the distinctions they have attempted in the west, what shall we imagine the superstructure to be, that has been reared upon such a basis?

XIV. "Attendance on two courses of this routine of farce and humbug," subjoins the above named writer, "is called finishing an education, and next in order comes the diploma. And what does the diploma amount to? An evidence that the gentleman thus dignified is qualified to practice medicine? Nothing of the kind.—Wealth may purchase the honor, the influence of friends may secure it, or dogged resolution, in attending three or four courses of lectures, will at length weary out the patience of professors, and enable the veriest dunce in the Universe, to carry off the prize—It amounts simply to shew that the persons who wear this distinguished honor, have been able to raise the means to attend two courses of lectures.

XV. Our author proceeds to affirm, "This is a fair representation of that system of instruction that is pursued in every medical college in the United States, a system that is supported at an expense of half a million of dollars annually—a system that is absurdly expected by a large portion of the community, to supply every defect of talents, and industry, and transform men destitute of every qualification into accomplished physicians. We appeal to the public to say, if it

is not one of the greatest impositions ever palmed upon an enlightened age; if it is not perfectly *inadequate* to the objects in view, and at least five centuries behind the present condition of literary improvement. Yet the gentlemen at the head of these institutions, who have in consequence an opportunity of *Lecturing themselves* into notice, and thereby of rising above professional competition, with all the gravity of a Roman augur talk sentimentally about the attachment of young men to their *Alma Mater*, and from a generous attachment to the interests of literature, *very modestly pray* that they may be protected against competition."

XVII. The allusion here made, refers to an introductory lecture delivered by John B. Beck M. D. at the college of physicians and surgeons of the city of New-York Nov. 6th 1829. We are sensible of the design of the author, to *elevate the standard* of medical education, narrow the arena of state patronage, and circumscribe the privileged order, within limits to be graduated by this standard.

XVI. The unsuccessfulness of all former attempts, the wretched condition of such establishments in our own country demonstrate, unequivocally, that little confidence can be placed, by an enlightened intelligent community, in these medical institutions, and their arrogant pretensions.

XVIII. Medical colleges may elevate an ostensible standard to the acme of their proud ambition and imperious folly, but men who have not a natural taste and genius for medical pursuits, will never attain to any extraordinary perfection in the healing art. Cash, friends, and a fortunate combination of incidents, may give a dullard block-head a nominal elevation, to the high standard of imaginary excellence, prescribed by pompous professors and their deluded patrons; but can never infuse intelligence, genius, or aptitude of mind for scientific

attainments, into stupid dull-brained lads on whom nature has entailed an intractable, drowsy indocility. Education cannot rouse nor professors lecture their sluggish intellect to the lofty summit of genuine professional eminence.

XIX. The genial current of the human mind will flow in the channel that nature has prescribed, and is not easily diverted from its course. When any one branch of science is urged upon a youth, for which he has no natural aptitude, but rather an inherent settled aversion, inwrought, in the very rudimental stamina of his mind, what perfection can we expect from such perversion of nature! Whatever of genius the individual might have originally possessed, the erroneous direction of intellect, in the development of its powers, will give to the mind a resemblance to plants, whose growth has been forced in a hot house, that never acquire that delicious flavor, that peculiar excellence, which distinguishes those that come to maturity in the open atmosphere, according to a regular course of nature.

XX. The philosophy of the human mind begins to arrest the attention of the inquisitive, who are unwilling to take every thing upon trust: It must and undoubtedly will become a subject of more special and extensive investigation. The young dawn of intellect should be watched with most scrupulous attention. The embryo motions of a gigantic mind may often be detected in cells of obscurity, poverty and desolation, that only need management, cultivation and improvement, to rear the possessor to a sublime degree of moral and literary excellence. On the other hand, how often do we see wealth and affluence, conferred on families, where mental abilities have been bestowed by mother nature with a sparing hand. These facts must be fully understood; and genius, aptitude of mind to the acquisition of useful knowledge be duly appreciated, be-

fore the standard of scientific knowledge, particularly of medical education, can be successfully reared far beyond the degraded level of the present period.

XXI. Merit alone should command our respect.—Our colleges have erected a false delusive standard—This is a fact in relation to medical science, that does not admit of honest contradiction. Shall our medical colleges and universities, engaged in perpetual warfare among themselves, imagine they can command the confidence of the world? They every where oppose and condemn each other, and will they call us to rally round some imaginary standard, obsequious to their dictation? While the whole medical kingdom is divided against itself, and every professor raises a standard of his own, is it possible that these conflicting claims, can be so lectured into notice, as to secure the patronage and exclusive protection of the state.

#### CALOMEL.

The subjoined Essay, relates chiefly to the use of Calomel, and is one of a series, on Bilious Fever and the use of calomel, by A. Hunn. We do not hold ourselves amenable for any of the theoretic peculiarities of the author.—We leave our readers to reject or adopt them agreeably to their own conviction of their merits or demerits. The facts stated in relation to the mercurial practice, deserve to be carefully noticed—for it is too notorious that the regular Faculty, as they are ludicrously called, rest upon calomel as their herculian remedy, and use it promiscuously in almost every case of disease.—Eds.

#### *Essay on Billious Fever and the Use of Calomel, by A. Hunn.*

This is the æra of calomel. The present medical practice might well dispense with every other drug besides it. I own the calomel practice is both

cheap and easy to the physician; for the whole extent of both theory and practice is, give *calomel*; if that will not help, give *more calomel*; and if that again proves abortive, double, treble the doses of *calomel*. If the patient recovers, "*calomel* has cured him;" if he dies, "nothing on earth could have saved him." The reader will conclude that medical schools and academies, with the head-aching studies of anatomy, Physiology, Botany, Pharmacology, and Chemistry, have been laid prostrate by this giant, *calomel*. Half a day's, nay, in a genius, half an hour's study, will initiate any lady or gentleman into all the mysteries of the *Æsculapian* art, and the "*aurea praxis*," might swell the account of a modern Galenus to \$100 at the expense of 12½ cents. This is certainly for the doctor a "consummation devoutly to be wished." But there is a heavy drawback on our joy, which the fable of the boys and the frogs so ingeniously portrays: "what is joy to you is death to us," said the expiring frogs. I expect to show to my impartial reader that the present calomel practice in fevers, is a calamity in its ravages co-extensive with the empire of civilization, and that war, with all its ghastly concomitants, must hail calomel as its master.

The *proper* effects of Mercury on the human frame, are, 1st, *fever*, as I have before defined it. 2d, It is the cause of a peculiar action on the lymphatic vessels. 3d, It chemically decomposes the fluids, and particularly the lymph. This is, in my opinion, the true cause of the fetid breath in salivation. 4th, In constitutions prone to that effect, or under circumstances favoring it, or when too long used, it produces *mortifying ulcers* of a specific kind, which have hitherto proved absolutely incurable. Its accidental effects are, 1st, Salivation, which may also be produced by other drugs, and sometimes appear spontaneously, and which is not

at all necessary to effect a cure. 2d. In a state of great visceral irritability, or when given in large doses, it proves a sickening and powerful purgative, with a singular sympathetic affection of the liver, which viscus is thereby thrown into a morbid convulsive action, creating bile, exorbitant in quantity and poisonous in quality; when in a healthy state the bilious secretion is mild, moderate in quantity, and salutary.

Now it appears to be a law in animalisation, that two distinct fever causes cannot operate at the same time on the system. Thus for instance, if the infection of the measles lodges in the body when a patient is inoculated for the small pox, the latter will lay inactive till the first has run through its course. This law I apprehend, has first introduced mercury into the fever practice, and it is a fact, that if the *proper* mercurial action can be produced, the fever produced by a miasma will speedily cease. But my reader will please to observe, 1st, that in all fever cases it is extremely precarious and doubtful to produce this proper mercurial action, and there are many cases in which it cannot be induced at all. Besides that, when induced it is unmanageable. 2d, If the bowels are very irritable and weak or in peculiar habits, it will operate as a purge and throw the liver into bile-creating convulsions, like a blister plaster on the very liver. It will attract more or less of the febrile impetus upon that vital viscus, producing a dangerous inequality, which is called "*bilious fever*." 3d. After a vast quantity of mercury has been introduced into the system, which for want of sufficient excitability, has lain dormant; if now by a sudden increase of that excitability or from other unknown causes, it evinces its presence by salivation, this will be of course enormous and distressing. The teeth, those valuable instruments of our most substantial enjoyments, become loose



and rot, perhaps fall out; or, worse still, the upper and lower jaw-bones exfoliate and rot out sometimes, as I have witnessed in the form of horse shoes; parts of the tongue and palate are frequently lost, and the poor object lingers out a doleful existence during life. A tremendous description this, indeed—yet this happens when mercury performs a *cure*. In our summer and fall fever the pestilential bilious symptoms occasioned or aggravated by it, carry the patients speedily off in inexpressible torments, and spread the multiplied miasmi among the mourning family, the unwary bystanders, and nurses!

Is there any of my readers who would not by this time pray, “deliver us from calomel?” Yes, my fellow citizens, you can be, the world will be delivered from it! Only drive away prejudice, that black thunder-cloud, which ever hovers over truth; think for yourselves, free as republicans ever should think; consult your precious healths and lives. Every free man should, at least to a certain degree, be his own lawyer, his own preacher, and his own *physician*. My method of cure in fever is entirely without mercury and its doleful effects. Were I even not more successful than those gentlemen of the medical profession, who trust so much to the virtues of calomel, still the gain would be immense; but from facts enumerated fairly by myself and others, I ween I have nothing to fear from an impartial comparison.

From the Botanic Advocate.

The following letter from a gentleman in Poughkeepsie, to Dr. Coffin, was handed us some days since, but its publication has been unavoidably delayed to the present time. We are rejoiced to find that Mr. Ranney, the editor of the Dutchess Republican, has the independence to advocate the Thomsonian cause—a cause which must prevail, notwithstanding the

powerful opposition of the medical faculty is arrayed against it.

Poughkeepsie, July 28, 1832.

Dear Sir,—It appears from accounts from your city, that you have at last had the calumny and inveteracy of the *learned ignorant* faculty heaped upon your innocent head. And for what? Because you can relieve the distress of your fellow men where they cannot! But the result has been exactly as I expected; by your being not only proved innocent, but useful to your fellow-citizens.

It is hard and unjust indeed, to be persecuted, when we are living and acting for the good of our fellow-men. Yea, when our efforts and exertions are spent day and night for the cause of truth—for bleeding and suffering humanity! But such is the prejudice of some, and the interest of others, that truth, *undeniable* truth, is spurned from the mind, and error, *gross* error, received instead thereof.—But man cannot be enslaved forever.

Mankind are examining the smooth sayings of *learned ignorance*, and setting aside and *condemning* the dogmas of the *faculty*. They begin to think that they have taken *poison* long enough,—that they have already swallowed *too much* of the nostrums of the *learned ignorant faculty*. I term them *ignorant* because they know little about disease, and less about a remedy. What have all their writings amounted to for FOUR THOUSAND YEARS? To a *Cypher*! They have not improved mankind in the science of medicine *awhit*, since the days of Galen, and I might have said Esculapius.

When will the mind of man be free? The slumber of ages will ere long be broken,—the chains of prejudice will be burst asunder, and mankind will rejoice in the change. Hitherto, you know, the press has been closed against us by the influence of designing men; and the Brunonians, Rushites, and in fine, *all the calomel swarm*,



could say and do as they pleased, without our having an opportunity of vindicating our just rights. And such *has* been the imbecility of man, that all the "*Doctors*" said was taken for granted to be truth. But, heaven be praised, it is now the reverse. The press is opened for the vindication of our heaven-born cause, and a complete revolution has been effected in the minds of many of our most eminent citizens.

The balance of justice is turning in favor of Dr. Thomson and his disciples, and he begins to be remunerated for his toil. The people *do* see the *unjustness*, the *impropriety* of *poisoning, blistering, bleeding, starving and freezing* a man because he is so unfortunate as to be sick. I was as much prejudiced as any individual could be; and you may ask, Why was you biased against it? Because I knew nothing about the theory of Dr. Samuel Thomson. My education taught me to place implicit confidence in what came from "our Doctor." "He knows," was the end of the subject. And were I disposed to question the utility of such a course of treatment as was set down in the Books; why, the reply was, "The author was a great man." And in a multitude of instances the student's own rationality is thrown away, for the "*learned author's fallacious reasoning*." It is enough to disgust *any man of common sense* to peruse the practice of different authors, when almost on every page, and for every trivial disease, *Calomel, Opium*, and the Lancet are the remedial agents. I was disgusted in reading *learned quackery*, and determined, should I follow any practice, it should be that which was *simple, safe and efficacious*, and my determination I have never regretted. I glory in the name of a "Botanic or Thomsonian Doctor," as I have the heartfelt satisfaction of relieving the sufferings of my fellow-men, almost daily, with the products of nature's garden.

I think I may safely assert, that every individual who is now prejudiced will acknowledge, that they know nothing about the theory of Dr. Thomson. —You will have reason to rejoice at the persecution you have unjustly met with; for, it will be there, as it has been elsewhere, it will increase the friends of the cause. There (the doctors) persecution will be like *Haman's gallows*: Then go on in the cause of humanity. Fear not the *faculty*,—not a hair of your head can they injure. They well recollect "*Fifty Thousand signatures* which were obtained not long since. They know the friends of the Botanic cause are too much for them. I would inform you that the Thomsonian cause is gaining friends rapidly in this county. The march is onward, and will continue to be, until minerals shall be erased from the pages of the *Materia Medica*. The Dutchess Republican, a paper of high repute, and extensive circulation, and edited by the able pen of Thomas S. Ranny, in this village, has opened its columns for the admission of our matter. Mr. Raney is likewise printing one thousand copies of "Towers' four Lectures" upon the Thomsonian system of practice, and will be issued soon. This work is done by the "*Dutchess Botanic Medical Society*." Our society is increasing in interest and numbers,—we have about fifty members. It propagates *truth* and not *quackery*.

I have with pleasure received the first number of the "Thomsonian advocate." It surely contains interesting facts. I trust it will meet with a great circulation. It devolves upon the friends of the Botanic cause to do all they can for its extension. I sincerely hope they will do it.

Our practice increases in this village fast. We have had an unusual number (for this season of the year) of common cholera, or cholera morbus cases, within a few days past, some of which were very severe.

But in *all*, and *every* instance, we were successful in giving relief—almost immediately.

The most cheering intelligence reaches us from all quarters, from time to time, of the prevalence of *Thomsonianism*. What shall be done? unless we turn in and assist the “regulars.” I believe “quackery” will spread, and ameliorate the condition of man. It is spreading rapidly in Connecticut. A number of good practitioners are diffusing there the knowledge of the truth. There is at present a great call for practitioners upon the Thomsonian system. We do not, lose a tenth part as many patients as the “Regulars.” Why is this! Can you tell? The cause of Thomsonianism must prevail, for it has facts for its basis, and reason for its guide. I will close, with a determination, to do all that within me lies, for the amelioration of mankind, and at the same time subscribe myself, yours respectfully. B. W. S.

From the N. Y. Medical Recorder.

#### ON THE PERNICIOUS EFFECTS OF BLOOD LETTING.

Among the various means made use of to restore the sick to health, there is none so irrational and absurd as blood letting. It is at present considered almost a universal remedy, and resorted to for the slightest indisposition; and although daily slaying its thousands, it still continues to be the main pillar of the profession. Indeed, were bleeding and mercury to be altogether prohibited, physicians would find themselves in a sad dilemma; their hands would be completely tied. We are unable to determine precisely the commencement of this pernicious custom; but we find it to be very ancient. It appears to have been commensurated with the declension of the healing art in the earliest ages of the world. It was not however carried to such a fury till after the discovery of the circulation of the blood by Har-

vey. It was at this period that the whole faculty began their mad career, in committing the most wanton violation of the laws of nature. Those who were so unfortunate as to fall victims to disease, were doomed to suffer the most extravagant effusion of blood. The poor sufferers were soon hurried to an untimely grave *secundum artem*. The guillotine of France hardly surpassed this systematic murdering. In process of time practitioners began to witness the mischief they were committing, which in some measure, damped their ardour in these bloody scenes. This check induced one physician to remark, that the proportionate disuse of the lancet was one of the greatest improvements in modern medicine. We find however that bloodletting has been practised for many centuries with almost the same infatuation; and, lamentable for mankind, in the present day it is regarded as the most powerful weapon to subdue disease. There are few maladies in which it is not recommended. In pleurisy and all inflammatory complaints, an astonishing quantity of blood is drawn from the system. It is very common to take from five to seven pounds in twenty four hours. One of the professors in the medical college of this city stated that he had frequently bled his patients to the amount of two hundred ounces in three days. Another professor declared that he had taken three hundred ounces in the short space of three days: for proof of this fact appealed to one of his students. The effect of this practice we shall leave for people of common sense to determine. How much is it to be regretted that such an awful scourge of humanity should exist! A little examination into the consequences of blood-letting, will prove, that so far from being beneficial, it is productive of the most serious and fatal effects.

Nature has endowed the animal frame with the power of preparing, from proper aliment, a certain quan-

city of blood. This vital fluid, subservient to nutrition, is, by the amazing structure of the heart and blood vessels, circulated through the different parts of the system. A certain natural balance between what is taken in, and what passes off by the several outlets of the body, is, in a state of health, regularly preserved. When this balance, so essential to life, is contrary to the laws of the animal constitution, interrupted, either a deviation from a sound state is immediately perceived, or health from that moment is rendered precarious. Blood-letting tends artificially to destroy that natural balance in the constitution. Nature, deprived of a quantity of the circulating fluid, being fitted with means for repairing the loss she has sustained, begins immediately to repair it. The secretions and excretions in general are diminished: the appetite is increased: and for a short time the process of nutrition is unusually quick.

Thus by the wisdom of Providence nature soon restores to the constitution what art had taken from it.\* The consequences therefore of having been once bled are rarely considerable. This single operation however is an imprudent violation of nature and of common sense.

But too often the practice has not rested here. For various are the incidents which favour the repetition of blood letting. The patient, if addicted to an easy, indolent, luxurious way of life, may find himself, after the evacuation, sensible of some present ease. The system being before too full of blood, enjoys a short respite from its usual oppression. Or after the bleeding, though it was improper, and tended rather to increase the disease,

\* It very frequently happens, however, that in many habits, the loss of even small quantities of blood becomes thin watery, and dropsical; other diseases follow, and very commonly death itself.

yet the hope of relief, or a change of weather, the benefit of exercise or country air, or some other alteration in an accustomed manner of living, may, by palliating or removing the complaint, prejudice the patient in favor of the lancet. The disorder, it may be, was of such a kind as really to admit of alleviation from the use of bleeding; but nevertheless, the remedy unhappily proves of worse effect to the constitution, than the disease itself would have done, though entirely left to nature. Great numbers of people who have been relieved by bleeding, are apt to be partial to the means of their recovery, and to become strenuous advocates for its use, even in cases by no means similar to their own.

These, and a variety of other accidental causes, often persuade to repetitions of blood-letting. The consequences now become more serious. The constitution, though it did not suffer materially from one bleeding, yet, far from being able to undergo with impunity, repeated operations of a similar kind, turns against itself those powers which were given for its preservation, and co-operates with the imprudent use of the lancet, in promoting the accomplishment of its own destruction. For now, the constitution not only repairs the losses of blood it sustains, but, if the common intervals of time be interposed, makes more blood than is naturally required for the purposes of health and life: it may be able to bear such repeated evacuations.

Thus, the habit of blood-letting is established. But, in fact, habitual blood-letting augments the very evil it was intended to remove. For, sanguine evacuations, necessitating the constitution to make more blood than is requisite, produce too great fulness of the system.\* The balance between what is taken into the body, and what passes off by its several outlets,

\* This state of the system is denominated plethora.

is no longer maintained. As the disposition to plethora, plethora exists itself, if the person continue to live in his accustomed manner, will undoubtedly prevail, except at that time when the constitution has just received the unnatural assistance of the lancet. The habit of letting blood increases and becomes stronger by repetition. In this state, the constitution in spite of human art, will at times labour under various degrees of plethora, till the vessels arrive at that point of fulness, which again creates the necessity of bleeding. Though some constitutions are so robust, or so peculiarly formed by nature, as to bear such treatment without any evident bad consequences, yet this is but the privilege of few. Many will severely suffer, though they themselves may often be the first to extol in the highest terms of praise, that very remedy which has proved so pernicious to their own constitutions. They have been bled till stated bleedings become necessary, not only for the support of health, but even for the preservation of their lives. They have injudiciously created to themselves the necessity of bleeding, and are even happy to find that it relieves complaints, which it at first tended to induce, and afterwards to confirm.

The effects of plethora are many and dangerous. A slight degree of it often produces strange commotions in weak and irritable habits. No person, who depends for the preservation of his health on an artificial discharge of blood, can ever be pronounced out of danger. Before the usual means of relief be employed, the sanguine fulness may at one time or another have proceeded to a morbid, or even to a fatal length. The anticipation of the stated bleedings may, with the greatest inconvenience, lessen, but it can never remove the danger. An increase of fatness, unnatural heat, torpor, inactivity, and a sense of lassitude, are common effects of plethora. The whole vascular system is unnaturally

put upon the stretch, and along with it, the nervous and muscular fibres. Thus, by slow degrees, the tone of the body, in consequence of so considerable an over distension, is in danger of being destroyed. The constitution itself, in proportion to its native vigor, is rendered liable, exclusive of every other cause of disease, to break many years sooner than it might otherwise have done in the common course of nature, if nature's laws had not been wantonly violated, or presumptuously despised. Hence old age sets in at an earlier season, and becomes afflicted with heavier infirmities. Frequently the appetite fails, the powers of digestion and nutrition are impaired, the body shrinks, the mind becomes dejected, the stomach and bowels are disordered, sleep is interrupted and unrefreshing, and, in short, the whole constitution fundamentally shaken and debilitated.

These are the slow and frequent consequences of plethora. Others in fact occur, which, though on the whole they are perhaps less destructive, are however more painful, and better distinguished.

Too great a fulness of blood predisposes the constitution to a world of disorders. Inflammatory fever, and external inflammation, the phrensy, the pleurisy and the quinsy, rheumatism, hæmorrhage, &c. are, frequently, the disorders of a sanguine habit, depending greatly on the plethoric state. —Physicians likewise are perfectly agreed, that too great a quantity of blood, increasing irritability has a strong tendency to excite, in habits where the predisposition to such disorders exists, convulsions, St. Vitus dance, epilepsy, and hysteric fits; complaints, which otherwise might never have made their appearance. We might further add, pains of the head, vertigo, night-mare, often the forerunners of apoplexy and palsy, which are justly ranked among the unhappy effects of plethora. Habitual blood-

letting tends particularly to bring on apoplectic and paralytic complaints. The morbid habit, acquiring strength by repetition, produces its fullest and most trying effects in advanced age, when venous plethora occurs; and when the veins of the head in old people, are particularly subject to rupture, and the consequent effusion of blood, far the most frequent and fatal cause of apoplexy.

Thus much by way of example, to show the bad effects of bleeding. It has been proved that artificial discharges of blood, instead of diminishing, tend to produce plethora; the pernicious consequences of which, on the human constitution, have been briefly enumerated.

Some may object to this reasoning, that in many instances of habitual blood-letting, the effects here mentioned have not followed; and that where they have, other causes more powerful have principally produced them. We answer, that such argument is inconclusive in itself, and foreign to the present subject. Not uncommonly, the slighter effects of blood-letting are inaccurately overlooked, or ignorantly neglected. But, where that is not the case, it may be observed that particular causes of disease, when not alone completely efficient, are often applied without inducing any morbid effect. Hard would be the fate of mankind, were every species of contagion to affect every person to whom it might be applied. To argue that habitual bleedings are no cause of apoplexy, because apoplexy is not constantly induced, is just as rational, as to deny the very power of a pestilential contagion, because it has been applied to thousands without exciting the pestilential fever. To produce a disease, two particulars in general are requisite: first, the predisposition of the body; secondly, the application of the existing cause. Without the predisposition we are often exposed with impunity to otherwise very active causes of disease; and, without

the application of the cause, the predisposition may continue with us through life without inconvenience. With regard to the latter part of the objection, that other causes more powerful, acting in conjunction with habitual blood-letting, may probably have produced the effects which have been enumerated, it is evidently foreign to the purpose. We grant that full living, and the neglect of exercise, may very powerfully assist in exciting the bad consequences of plethora. It is believed too, that there are men, who would rather submit to be bled even once a month, with the privilege in the mean time of indulging their vitiated appetite at large, and of enjoying the pleasures of ease, than, by living a temperate active life, possess the most perfect state of health, the free gift of heaven, independent of the assistance of art. Yet, the argument just advanced, appears still decisive, that habitual blood-letting, often produces a sanguine fulness of the vascular system, liable to be followed with pernicious effects, and is therefore absurd and highly detrimental to health.

The following are the observations of the surgeon of the western regiment of Kentish militia, England, on the effects of blood-letting. They plainly prove the inutility and absurdity of bleeding, for the "cure of any disease with which we are acquainted." His language ought to be written in letters of gold. He remarks,

"I have been upwards of six years surgeon of the western regiment of Kentish militia, during which time our number of sick has never been inconsiderable; whereby much opportunity of practice has been afforded me. I have been in the habit of keeping a journal of the different cases as they occurred, wherein, I carefully noted every symptom of which the patient complained, the various remedies exhibited, the time when, and with what view given. I also marked every change that took place in the course of a disease, and



the effect of the medicine made use of; and lastly, my own opinion of the method of cure which I adopted.—In the course of my practice, I have endeavoured on every occasion to determine the justness of preconceived theories by experience, and on every subject to think for myself, uninfluenced *by the tenets of schools, or the opinions of others.* The prevalence of any mode of practice is certainly not a clear proof of its being useful; nor is it a sufficient recommendation that it may be practised with safety. If it is not evidently beneficial, it ought to be laid aside. In this light I consider the custom of bleeding, as a means of cure in febrile and other diseases, which I have no hesitation in asserting, is not necessary in any complaint with which we are acquainted. If we grant that *any deviation from the healthy state denotes debility, either general or partial,* surely whatever has a tendency to debilitate further, it is reasonable to suppose, ought to be carefully avoided. It certainly cannot be denied, that in every disease wherein bleeding has been used, complete recovery has been protracted, owing to the debility thereby occasioned. We are directed to use blood-letting to lessen irritability, to take off the *phlogistic diathesis*, to deplete the blood vessels, and to prevent inflammation. I know by experience, that these indications can be fulfilled much better, with less danger, by other means. Though the ill effects of the loss of blood, unless excessive, are seldom perceivable in youth, yet they rarely fail of being felt before the age of forty-five. People who have been often bled when young, about this period of life begin to be afflicted with chronic pains. They recover very slowly from fits of illness, and are very liable to paroxysms, and a variety of other disorders. I have rarely been deceived in my conjectures respecting patients of this description, when I have met with them. The cases men-

tioned by Dr. Denman show, that it does not prevent inflammation, or abortion; nor is it proved, that by taking away blood, we lessen the diameter of the blood vessels, as we find that six ounces from a large orifice has a greater effect than twenty from a small one."

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## COMMUNICATION.

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GENTLEMEN EDITORS,

As you profess to be the friends and patrons of botanic medicine, and have evinced a disposition to extend useful knowledge in relation to this interesting subject, I have no hesitancy in making this communication, and doubt not of your entire approbation.

### STAR-GRASS.

This is an article with which I have been long acquainted, but do not recollect ever to have read an accurate description of it. I shall however proceed to give as plain, intelligible an account as possible. It bears the names of stargrass, copavi root, backache root, colic root, hysteric root, snake root, button root and starwort. Other names have been given it, but these may suffice, and I proceed to describe this valuable vegetable. It has a bulbous root, from one to two inches in length, as large, and sometimes larger than a man's finger, with many small fibrous roots hanging at its lower extremity. The decayed leaves on the lower extremity of the stalk, just at the surface of the earth, where it joins the root, leave a beardy roughness on the upper and external central part of the root, which circumstance has given the plant the name of *the old man with a beard*.

The stalk is round and tapering, rising from two to three feet high. The beardy points alluded to, are the remains of the first or lower leaves, which spread round the bottom of the stalk on the ground. These leaves are the narrowest and smallest at the point of their junction with the stalk, widening gradually and regularly for several inches, sometimes six—then they become ovate and lanceolate. The leaves above are shorter and lanceolate, shortening



gradually and regularly to the top.—Six and sometimes eight or ten inches of the top of the stalk is a spike or tassel, closely surrounded by blossoms of a palish red or purple color. The petioles or footstalks of these blossoms are extremely short, serve only to secure their adherence to the stalk on which they grow. It blossoms in July, and continues to bloom, until interrupted by autumnal frost. The root, recently dug, is singularly complicated in its flavor, faintly resembling spignard, ele-campaign and fir-balsam. In fact, its peculiarly complicated smell is extremely difficult to describe. It grows in abundance on the prairie of Sandusky, particularly in the vicinity of Bucyrus, and divers other places. The roots, commonly, are outwardly of the color of the ground on which they grow. In the Derby plains, they mostly grow singly, viz: one root to a stalk—but in many places, they may be gathered in clusters.

*Medical use.*—With many who have tested its virtues, it has been found a valuable medicine. The powder of the dried root, in doses of a teaspoonful at a time, in a small portion of spirits, or other convenient vehicle, has frequently given immediate relief in spasmodic cholera, and hysteric affections, relieves pain in the stomach and bowels, expels wind with rapidity—relieves coughs, pulmonary obstructions, and asthmatic difficulties of respiration. In these complaints it sustains, I think deservedly, a high reputation. It is reported to be useful in other complaints, of which I have not sufficient testimony. In tincture of two ounces of the coarsely powdered root, in three half pints of brandy or diluted alcohol, it is said to be a safe and useful medicine in the cases above alluded to. Farther trials may cast more light on the subject, and establish, more extensively, the character of this indigenous remedy, which promises to be a valuable acquisition to the Materia Medica of the United States, and to facilitate the practitioner in his off hand prescriptions for the benefit of the sick.

Its anodyne virtues must be admitted by all who have given it a fair trial.—As a diuretic, its usefulness in dropsy, has been much insisted upon.

Some modern practitioners affirm, in general terms, that it is a warming stimulant—operates lively as a sudorific, diuretic and carminative. Given in infusion, or powder, by itself, or in connection with other remedies, it wonderfully relieves cholera, backache and other difficulties, where remedies of this class have been found serviceable. The writers experience measureably confirms the general testimony. If any of your correspondents can give a more satisfactory account of this important article, for one, I should be glad to receive the information. Proceed gentlemen in your generous and philanthropic enterprise, and believe me respectfully your  
M\*\*\*d F\*\*\*d.

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## COLUMBUS:

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Saturday, Nov. 3, 1832.

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### CHOLERA SYRUP.

That an accurate knowledge of an efficient remedy, for a violent and destructive disease, now spreading terror and death far and near, may be obtained by all, to whom these presents may be presented, we again publish the Thomsonian Recipe. His prescription has been tested to the satisfaction of multitudes; who under the benedictions of a munificent providence, have been saved by its genial influence. This is precisely the same receipt as appeared in our first number, though more concisely expressed: This may impress it more readily on the recollection. Besides, as we wish to subserve the cause of humanity, it is presumed its republication may introduce it to some, to whom the first number may never be presented.

*Recipe.* Take of the roots of American valerian and the bark of the roots of bayberry, finely pulverized, of each one pound; pour on half a gallon of boiling water, infuse awhile and repeat the operation with the same quantity of boiling water. To this gallon of the

infusion carefully poured off, *add* of pure sugar-house molasses, one gallon—of best Jamaica rum, one gallon—rheumatic drops, viz: No. 6, of Dr. Thomson, prepared from the best materials, one gallon. Then, pour a teacupful of boiling water, on one ounce of genuine African cayenne—let it stand and steep until the strength is extracted—then, add the infusion to the whole mixture, and it is ready for use.

This medicine has been proscribed, and successfully used, in doses of a table spoonful at a time, for an adult,—to children, a less quantity is given, in proportion to their years, as a preventive to that alarming malady the cholera:—to be taken several times in a day at discretion. In the incipient, or forming stages of the disease, let the practitioner bear in mind, to give a teaspoonful of a powder, composed of cayenne, bayberry and nerve-powder, each one ounce—bitter root in powder, half an ounce, or, kercuma two ounces—let these be finely pulverised, and intimately blended together. The same proportions should be used, for preparing a less quantity. The dose prescribed, should be taken in half a wine glass of the syrup, every hour, or oftener, in proportion to the rapidity and violence of the attack.

A lively steam, gradually raised, equal to what the patient is commonly found willing to bear, should be timeously applied. When in bed, hot stones, wrapt in wet clothes, should be so placed to the feet, and to all parts of the body, as to communicate the steam, and diffuse and equalize the heat to the body and limbs. After administering a few of the above doses, and proceeding as prescribed, your efforts are not crowned with the desired success, but the patient appears to be still sinking, add

one, two, or three teaspoonfuls of the third preparation, and repeat, as reason, age and symptoms may appear to indicate.

**INJECTIONS must never be omitted.**—For these, Dr. Thomson has given most ample directions, to which the reader is referred. Persevering faithfulness is always indispensable. A remiss and careless application of the best means, may disappoint our expectations. **PERR, PLATT & Co.** keep the above prescribed medicine carefully prepared, ready for immediate use, accompanied with printed directions for the using thereof.

It is with pleasure we suggest, that these medicines, judiciously administered, are the most efficient means of relieving CHOLERA INFANTUM, or bowel complaint of children, that is prevalent in the summer months, and often mortal in our country.

In case of cholera, it is proper to observe, that it is particularly important to excite a free perspiration. When the patient is put in bed, let him be placed between woolen blankets, and when the warm stones for keeping up the perspiration are properly applied, it will be necessary to continue the syrup once an hour—if the patient be not materially relieved, resort immediately to a full course of medicine, as Thomson directs—after which the cholera medicine may be continued at discretion, until the cure shall be completed.

#### PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

It is a notorious fact, that intemperate persons are more liable to suffer from epidemic diseases, than persons of regular habits. They are not only more liable to the attack, but are subject to more eminent danger when disease fastens upon them. The libidinous debauchees, and lascivious demireps, in Europe and America, have

been among the first victims that have fallen before the Cholera. Slaves, servants, and persons addicted to unclean habits of body, in pursuit of their daily avocations, are more liable to sickness, than persons placed in more eligible situations. Idleness is also a foe to health, not only clothing a man in rags, but becomes the natural parent of disease. Exposure to damp, rainy and evening air, and sudden vicissitudes from heat to cold will certainly check cutaneous perspiration—which evacuation being diminished those of the bowels, bladder &c. are frequently proportionably increased.

Those temporary derangements are not unfrequently, the commencement of some permanent morbid condition of the organs of digestion, and the precursors of mortal disease.

Irregularities in eating, drinking, sleeping, watching, fasting, exercise or rest, are conducive of disease. A universal remedy consists in being temperate in all things.

In case of an attack of any sickness, it is a dictate of prudence, to use appropriate remedies in the incipient state, before it gains that degree of maturity which renders its removal difficult. When a disease is fully formed, and has gained, possession of the whole system—having commenced the use of appropriate means of relief—decision, patience and perseverance are indispensable, and are the sheet anchor of our hopes, under providence, in every trying circumstance.

#### CAMPHOR.

In Cholera the camphor treatment has been highly recommended. It may be occasionally useful, but we have never esteemed it as a potent remedy. We apprehend it can do no harm—it is too innocent to stand an impediment in the way of other medi-

cine, and may be safely used, simultaneously, with almost any other means that has been employed. Where patients have it not in their power to have recourse to other means, it would certainly be commendable, to resort to such means as it was in their power to command; especially, if the remedy in itself was of the mild inoffensive class, and of vegetable origin, as camphor is, being a gum exuding from an oriental tree. It has been given by the mouth, by injections, besides being externally applied. But in our opinion, this, nor any other remedy should preclude the patient from immediate, faithful recourse to the remedies we have recommended; that have endured the ordeal of an opposing faculty; and successfully triumphed in all sections of our country, where its efficacy has been fairly tested.

Those who have used camphor have been directed to dissolve two ounces in one pint of alcohol, and use a few drops at a time every five or six minutes, in a little water—dose to be increased at discretion, according to the emergency—cloths, wet in the solution are to be applied to the temples, wrists, stomach and bowels—it is also to be applied to the body and limbs by friction with the hands—it is not apprehended that this course can do any harm, but we confess our faith is weak, and we would candidly, and ingenuously affirm, that we have more confidence in one pint of the Cholera Syrup, given as Thomson has prescribed and proved, and we have published, (in the plainest manner in our power,) than in all the ancient remedies which the *materia medica* can afford. In this we have the approbation of all, who have attentively and candidly examined into the real merits of the question, where is a remedy for cholera to be found, in which we

may confide with a good degree of safety? But as every family, and every individual, is liable to this terrible disorder, we have thought proper to communicate this information, upon the authority of those who have recommended it, because many persons may be overtaken in situations, where it may be utterly impossible to avail themselves of any other remedy, that has even the passing reputation that camphor has acquired.

### IMAGINATION.

The influence of imagination in preventing, 'producing, and curing disease, exceeds all common apprehension.

The depression of spirits, mental anxiety, hurried respiration, spasms, palpitations, suffocation and faintness, attendant on Hysterical affections, are preceded and accompanied with a peculiar perturbation and disquietude of imagination. This specific restlessness, and commotion of the animal passions, and their concatenations and associations with nervous excitement, and the exquisite sensibilities arising in the system of hysterical patients, is not the subject of our present investigation. But the fact, that the imagination has a powerful influence and controul over men, to rouse their hopes, excite their fears, agitate their nerves, and produce disorders of body and mind, will not be denied by any who have given the subject any tolerable degree of attention. A correspondent states, that, some years ago, "A certain Mr. A. L. of King's Creek, Penn. at forty years of age, was the unfortunate subject of a frequent epilepsy—scarcely a day passed him untortured by a violent paroxysm. Every transient casualty, even his own recollections and reflections, were daily excitements

of his unfortunate complaint—Many physicians had been consulted, and his exhausted funds, began to advertise him of an additional calamity of poverty, about to supervene to his other affliction. His imagination was so evidently wrought up to a degree of uncommon derangement, that being consulted, I had no hesitancy in pronouncing his complaint, to be a disease of the *imagination* exclusively. Accordingly the remedial course prescribed, was exactly adapted to take effect, by its appropriateness to his conceits, and fantastic conceptions. He was invited to a lonely, retired situation in a neighboring wood, where solitude appeared to reign undisturbed by human intrusions—there, after some preliminary arrangements, by way of prelude—He was solemnly required to maintain a most inviolable secrecy, in relation to the prescriptions, by which a cure was to be effected. He was required then, to proceed beneath the dark and solemn mantle of a cloudy, moonless night, to rifle the lonely grave of a murdered savage, in a distant wood, and secure a piece of bone from his skull, to be disposed of by many solemn and significant ceremonies, deemed most apposite and appropriate to suit the fancifulness of his mind, and to make, if possible, a stronger *counter excitement*, than that, by which the paroxysms had been induced, and his disease protracted.

We need not enter farther, into a detail of his case and the treatment. The medicine administered was innocent and amusing, rather than an efficient means to relieve his malady, otherwise than being connected with the general scheme of acting on his imagination. Suffice it to say—complete success attended the prescriptions. The patient was perfectly re-

lieved of his *falling sickness*. On enquiry, several years afterwards, I learned that he had never had another fit of the kind. This is not a solitary case—a youngster of fourteen, laboring under a similar complaint, gave evidence that it was with him also, a disease of imagination, a mere habit. Seizing on his youthful fancy, and enlisting in his service the credulity of a widowed mother, to assist him in carrying the prescriptions into effect, the success was immediate and he was never after, the subject of a single paroxysm."

Fear has a powerful influence to depress the mind, disorder the passions and derange all the functions of the animal body. The dread of a pending battle, has excited sudden and violent *diarrhæ*, beyond the power of courage and valour to prevent or restrain, until the temporary storm of excitement had time to subside and the nerves to acquire their natural calmness.

Frequent and excessive discharges of Urine, in some, and most profuse perspiration in others, have been occasioned by terror from fire, from robbers, and from pursuit of evil officers, and a long etcetera of causes operating on similar principles.

An increase in quantity and frequency of the dejections, both by stool and urine, is often the result of excessive excitement on the nervous system, which has been produced by incidental occurrences.

The violent actings of a terrified imagination, a mere cholera panic, may often induce the disease, and probably, has been the occasion of many deaths, that might otherwise have been escaped.

When you see men and women ex-

travigantly alarmed—frightened, flying, trembling, quailing, with hearts overflowing with premature anguish and dismay, you may be sure there is a strong predisposition to be affected with the prevailing epidemic. When timorousness and cowardice have seized upon, and fully secured a possession of the nervous system, how easily may a mortal cholera be excited in such an unfortunate being. All the remote causes are invited into immediate and efficient operation, that might have passed away harmless and inoffensive, by a more firmly guarded, judicious and precautionary course of conduct.

Death is the common lot of mankind, but cause and effect succeed each other by settled and inviolable laws of nature. These laws embrace human agency, to a certain degree; this agency is always connected with the numerous and varied results, that fall to the lot of mankind, in all the numerous stations and conditions of life in which they are or can be placed.

The weaknesses of our fellow beings, call loudly for sympathy and commiseration, and should never be treated with inattention or negligence—much less with ridicule and contempt. The children of misfortune, whose case we deplore, have a strong demand on our kindest charities. The good man's heart, is always intent, upon stretching out a friendly hand, to help the sufferer safely through the labyrinth of difficulties, he may be providentially called to pass. He will measurably alleviate human sufferings, to the utmost of his power. In the day of adversity, he will resort to the most soothing and consolatory measures. He will visit the gloomy halls of sickness and affliction. His aim will be to enlighten the understanding of the bewildered, enliven the desponding—pour oil and wine on the sick and wounded, and animate the drooping spirit, by the cheering hope of the timeous approach of a



more propitious season. The wise and good, will always find it an incumbent duty, to palliate all human sufferings, even where they cannot perfectly relieve.

The power of imagination will not be easily doubled, by those who have attentively examined the story of the cocklane ghost, as given by Addison in his Spectator; or, the history of Salem witchcraft, as it stands recorded in the annals of our country. The results of the cholera panic, in various instances in Europe and America, evince the fact, if they do not explain the influence of imagination in producing and curing disease.

We feel no disposition to insinuate, that men should not indulge any fears, concerning the calamity, that prevails to such an extent of mortality at the present time. No! it is a terrific and desolating malady. We are fully apprised, that the prudent man foreseeing the evil, will make preparation for protection and defence—much, however, of the dread, and alarm, that rest on the public mind, arises from the total want of confidence in the practice of the regular faculty. They are divided and disputing, and their patients dying in thousands around them. This is not an imaginary evil, but an appalling reality. Let us then renounce them, and all their deleterious drugs and inefficient remedies. The Botanical means are full of promise. The efficacy of these means has been tested; the results invite calm, faithful, dispassionate investigation; defy calumny itself, to gainsay or oppose its gigantic march. These assertions are not the sportings of fancy; they are not the whim of a disordered brain, but truths, confirmed by the most unequivocal testimony. On the resistless power of truth, its progress and ultimate triumph, we rest our hopes of success, in the arduous enterprise in which we are now engaged, manure all opposition of an interested and privileged faculty, and their abettors where ever they may be found.

#### TO DOCTOR DRAKE.

Sir:—we have seen and read with careful attention, two short pieces, the productions of your pen, published in

the *Commercial Daily Advertiser*: The first is headed *Cholera in Cincinnati*. That cholera patients are extremely liable to relapse, that many perish in this way, admits not of any doubt. We believe that to promote perspiration, and keep up a constant determination to the skin, is a matter of most pressing importance. "The causes of these relapses," you state, "are chiefly two: First, rising too soon from bed and going into the open air, by which the perspiration is checked. IN NO OTHER DISEASE IS THIS SO DANGEROUS. I speak according to the experience of other places, and my own observation in this." All the circumstances in the case, confirm the correctness of our opinion, and, if we are not grossly mistaken, we have the high and reputable testimony of Dr. Drake to corroborate the sentiment, that to induce and maintain a free perspiration, is of primary consequence, in every stage of the epidemic cholera, now prevalent in our country. Whatever cause may excite a relapse, a similar cause might predispose to the original attack. Every such cause should be carefully avoided. You state farther that "indulgencies in diet are among the causes of relapse." You remark that, "Those who are recovering from Cholera, whether slight or violent, will relapse and die, if they indulge in hearty meals of solid food." We agree, that the diet of the convalescent should be mild, nutritious and easy of digestion—"gruel, soup, mush and milk, rice chocolate" et cetera. It is presumed Doctor, you would not put your veto to Thomson's directions viz: "Take a chicken, cut it in pieces; put the gizzard in with it, opened and cleansed, but not peeled. Boil it till the meat drops from the bone; begin to give the broth &c." What ever you may think of the importance of this recipe, we agree that chicken soup will always be useful, as an article of diet in Cholera, where food is admissible. We fear the neglect of proper nourishment has been a material injury to many.

Under the head, "*cholera and the steam doctors*," you observe, "*I am told, that a great many persons affected with*



*Cholera* apply to the *steam doctors*.' This sir, is a *fact* that can be well substantiated. Notwithstanding the opposition, abuse and persecution, to which the Thomsonian practice has been subjected, it receives a large share of public confidence. You have been told the truth. You proceed to say, "MANY of these are no DOUBT cured"!!! This round and unequivocal admission of the *fact*, must result from a conviction of its *truth*, beyond the power of contradiction to remove. "But," you add, "others must be lost, who, under a different method might have been saved. This is all gratuitous: Your well known hostility to the Thomsonian practice, and the obloquy you have endeavored to heap upon it, certainly evince you have never given the practice, a personal and faithful trial. You can only say," I am told; your assertions are merely theoretical hypothesis, mere conjecture. You proceed, "I have often said to my friends, that some parts of the Thomsonian practice would be WELL ADAPTED to CHOLERA, especially in its advanced stages." Again, "A weak infusion of Lobelia, with confinement to bed, and external heat, is extremely proper in the forming stages of the disease." So we find, that, some parts of the Thomsonian practice are well adapted to the advanced stages, and some parts extremely proper in forming stages. In the intermediate and progressive stages, between its incipient forming state, and ultimate development of ellapse, you have not told us what to do, or what you think of our remedies: But, we remember to have read, from your sagacious pen, that, "most of the medicines on which he, (Thomson) relies, are active stimulants, and may, therefore, cure the diseases to which that class of remedies belongs." Well-doctor, does not this class of remedies belong peculiarly to the genuine Asiatic Cholera, when fully formed? When spasms seize the breast? When the extremities grow cold! anxiety, depression and syncope supervene? You reject No. 6. but, you recommend the aromatic camphorated water. This is a stimulant;

We recommend Cholera Syrup, in which is contained a reasonable proportion of *Cayenne*, which is one of the best aromatics we have ever known. If from the slight fragrancly, or, mildness of its odour, it claims but an humble rank, in the family of aromatics, yet, it will be admitted, that it relieves flatulency, imparts an agreeable warmth to the stomach, and is every where allowed, to be a useful condiment to aid that *Viscus*, in the digestion of food." "Capsicum," says Dr. Cooper, "possesses all the virtues of the oriental spices, without producing those complaints of the head, which they are apt to occasion." Dr. Adair found capsicum useful in *chachezia africana*, a disease among the negroes; in which they complain of loss of appetite, pain in the stomach, difficulty of breathing, and universal debility. The skin is of an orange complexion, and cold to the touch. The blood is represented to be poor, vapid, colourless, and becoming inefficient in stimulating the heart. The capsicum of course has been judiciously recommended in that complaint. We know it to be an excellent article to stimulate the stomach, approximating a state of torpidity, or when it has become already measurably torpid, and to rouse the whole system, when paralised and sinking in the deathlike lethargy of Cholera. Lobelia is a stimulant, stimulating the mouth, and fauces, rousing the stomach into action. Dr. Cutler states, that it produced, in his case, "sensible effects upon the coats of the stomach, and a kind of prickly sensation through the whole system, even to the extremities of the fingers and toes. The urinary passage was perceptibly affected by producing a smarting sensation in passing the urine, which was probably provoked by stimulus on the bladder." This doctor, is the medicine you recommend in the beginning or forming stages of Cholera.

Doctor, is cholera a spasmodic affection? A learned professor, of New-York, has recently given lobelia an eminent and distinguished character in the cure of spasmodic diseases of almost every description.

"The Dogstar rages, and beyond a doubt,"

Professor Drake begins to feel its influence ! ! ! ! ! ! ! !

You manifest a strong aversion to No. 6; notwithstanding, myrrh is every where known and acknowledged to be a diaphoretic, rarely failing to produce an agreeable moisture of the skin; but sir, experience demonstrates, that No. 6, given with lobelia, never fails to produce profuse perspiration. If it be dangerous to check perspiration, as you affirm, to promote a free diaphoresis, as the Thomsonian remedies are sure to effect, must have a most salutary tendency to remove the malady, and recover the patient from pending death. "In the stage of collapse," you state, "No. 6, and every other stimulating article of the Thomsonian plan may be admitted." This admission, no doubt, is more readily made at this period, for you eek out the sentence thus, "Tho' treated in this manner, or *any other*, the patient will *generally die*." One word on our side. You are willing to allow the Thomsonian Practitioner to administer to the *dying*, because, forsooth, there is no danger in these extreme cases of Thomsonian successfulness and rivalry, eclipsing the fame of the regular physician. Allow us at least to use *lobelia* in the forming stage. You have told us, "It is lamentable to see how many continue to fall victims to the epidemic, from neglecting the first stage: But the first stage frequently passes rapidly away—as one of our correspondents has observed, "the watch word of the cholera is *dispatch*. It throws down the gauntlet, and as it were defies us to a trial of speed" you will recollect *Magen-die's* opinion, That, "Cholera commences where all other diseases end, *in death* ! ! Surely, doctor, the "Thomsonian *plan*," and every Thomsonian prescription," every stimulating article," he has recommended, "may be

admitted." Like you, we recommend warm drinks, and pedeluvium, at the commencement. We go farther, we steam the whole body; to promote perspiration is with us a *sine qua non*. Cast away your calomel and opium; individuals of deserved fame, announce the deleterious consequences of using those deadly poisons. Why doctor, the regular faculty are divided on this question; but as far as we can learn, from the passing intelligence of the day, the Cincinnati professor, a gentleman of acknowledged erudition, is on this question in the ranks of a minority. Come doctor, come out straight and fair; instead of your hot sage tea, bathing feet, and giving a little weak lobelia tea, as you allow and prescribe, with the addition of aromatic, camphorated water, take a thorough Thomsonian course, and do the business effectually, not at the halves. Thomson's practice, more than any other, supports the *vis vitæ* in the sinking *patient*, contributes to rouse the heart and arteries, from that torpidity, and ellapse, which is commencing in the incipient stage of real cholera, and threatens hastily his dissolution. It restores languid circulation, and equilibrates heat and action through the system: by it, a uniform and general excitement is effected, sanguiferous, congestion prevented, the deadliest forms of depression, in many aggravated cases, have been relieved: we therefore, cannot be theorised out of our knowledge of plain, undeniable matter of fact. Doctor, do not fear "to enter the steam bath." ⚡ though "not quite at home," ⚡ little harm would be done to the patient. This is not a "blue light" ⚡ you so eloquently describe; "such as the superstitious, see rising from the church yard, that spreads over the people, and reveals the extacy of every vacant and credulous countenance." We recollect where you have told us, that "His," (Thomson's) remedies consist of plants long known to the profession; *many*

of them *now in use*, and others rejected as inert."

This account, illy accords with an objection frequently urged against the Thomsonian Practice, by many, considered almost unmanageable, "that he has only **ONE** remedy for every disease;" Doctor, you, yourself give a statement of a stock of medicine for a family: 1 oz. of the emetic herb, 2 ozs. of Cayenne,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of bayberry root bark, 1 pound of poplar bark, 1 pound of ginger, and 1 pint of rheumatic drops. Now, deduct those articles known and *used* by the profession, and *reject* the other articles, that are *inert*, that cannot do any harm; admit the utility of *lobelia*, in the first stages of *cholera*, and that every stimulating article of the Thomsonian plan, *may be used*, in the *collapsed stage*, we think the Thomsonian system has received the indirect, and unintended approbation of DOCTOR DRAKE. Indeed doctor, we are not disposed to charge you with contradiction, or equivocation, but, when compelled to state our opinion, we must say, upon the honor of *steam* PRACTITIONERS, that we fancy, we discover something, strongly resembling the mist and fog of inconsistency!!! We are not disposed to be merry at your expense. We have no desire to vacinate, nor Thomsonate you on "*the snout*," to make people take notice and laugh at a learned professor: no sir,

"These things we note to bring to view  
Some noble precedents for you:  
The chapter needs not any comment,  
Then pray don't hesitate a moment."

Well Doctor, as you have often said to your friends, that, "*some parts* of the Thomsonian practice, would be *well adapted* to *cholera*" making the deductions and rejections, as above, please to repeat your friendly admonitions; and we hope, when you have made some allowance for your own prejudices and partiality, you will be better qualified, to treat the subject

with so much candour, that we may yet hail you, as a convert to the system.  
Eds.

#### N. B. FAILURES POSSIBLE.

We never attempted to insure immortality to men's bodies. Some diseases may be so deadly in their attack; overtake the subject, so burthened with predisposing causes of extreme aggravation, and so destitute of any appropriate means, of which they can timeously avail themselves—that when the physician is called, the remedial period has completely passed away. The **REGULAR FACULTY** are not willing that Thomsonian practitioners should approach the sick, till death's last pang has seized the unfortunate victim. In the stage of collapse, "The patient will generally die," says Professor Drake—"Then the Thomsonian plan may be admitted." Must we be pushed into the back ground? cast off upon such forlorn hopes? Why, doctor, if we should steam and stimulate the dying, and light the lamp of life when half extinguished,—these returning emigrants from the chilly confines of the grave—would be hailed with suspicious unbelieving jealousy, and your wounded pride, would yield a reluctant assent, to the testimony of a patient Thomsonized from the dead!!!

When you, who stand high in the profession, relinquish your lancet, calomel, opium and emetic tartar, and embrace the botanical faith and practice,

"The wondering world inquires to know,

Is it the truth? can it be so?

Why gentlemen, the de'il's to pay,  
That you forsake the good old way,  
And take a course both new and odd,  
That wise professors never trod—  
Your craft is waning sirs, we know it,  
Thomsonian skill will overthrow it.  
They often have it in their power,  
To save men at the 'leventh hour;  
And thus confer a cure unlooked for,  
The patient *save*, but starve the doctor!!!"  
Eds.

#### LETTERS RECEIVED.

We are happy to have it in our power, to lay before our readers the subjoined account of the cholera and cholera incidents in Cincinnati. The commu-

nication is from an intelligent gentleman, addressed to his father in this town. His opportunity to acquire correct information may be relied on. His veracity will not be questioned by any of his acquaintances. However favorable his opinion may be to the Thomsonian mode of practice, even Professor Drake, would scarcely venture to affirm that he is one of those who, "Hold the cel of science by the tail."

*Extract of a letter, dated Cincinnati, October 25th.* From Saturday 12 o'clock, to Sunday 12 o'clock, 22 deaths. From Sunday 12 o'clock, to Monday 12 o'clock, 25 deaths. The extraordinary number of fatal cases that occurred between Friday and Saturday viz. 29, is to be attributed to the report, that the "*epidemic was abating*;" thus throwing people off their guard; thus I think we may account for one of the caprices of the cholera, viz. the different degrees of its mortality on successive days. The truth is, the caprice is in the citizens themselves. As soon as the report goes abroad, that the plague has abated, men begin to feel an assurance of safety, previous precautions are neglected—they begin to eat and drink freely, and subject themselves to general exposure.

The inevitable consequence is, that they voluntarily prepare for cholera attacks. Thus I explain one of the remarkable features of this disease. CROTON OIL has been used in Cincinnati, and though one drop is commonly a powerful purgative, I have known six drops administered in the collapsed stage, with no more effect, than if it were milk diluted with water. One physician says, "I found it of service"—another declares it to have been injurious—so much for physician's opinions. The dissections of the cholera victims, present the most singular phenomena. The blood in the veins appears black and ropery like tar. In the arteries it is dark like that in the veins, when the person is in health.

How is it that the blood undergoes this miraculous change? Thus say the anatomists;—The blood is composed of serum and coagulum,—the serum is of a light rice color, the coagulum dark. Now the effect of the tremendous discharges in cholera, is of such a nature, (no one pretends to say how or why,) as to separate the serum from the coag-

ulum. The serum is carried off in those evacuations, which resemble rice water, the coagulum becomes thicker and thicker, as the serum is taken from it, until it stagnates in the veins and arteries, the vital impulse having lost its energy, life itself ceases.

The object of all remedies should be to stimulate the vascular system and rouse the stagnating blood into action. Powerful emetics have been applied to agitate the system. The collapsed stage of cholera is truly terrible. It is like the knell of death. No doubts remain but that the disease is curable in its premonitory stages, if suitable applications be made in proper time. The watch-word of the cholera is despatch. It throws down the gauntlet, and, as it were, defies us to a trial of speed.

Three causes, I discover, produce the cholera: habitual intemperance—a single instance of excessive indulgence, and strong mental excitement. Mr. G\*\*\*\*, of this city, a very temperate man, died on Sunday last. What was the cause, or occasion, why the plague attacked him? Why, his partner died a day or two before, and he was trembling from morning till night with terrifying apprehensions: Fear destroyed him.

The cholera brings some good with it. \* \* \* \* It purifies the earth of drunkards, disposes the mind to seriousness, and calls into action the moral energies of the soul.

*Extract of a letter from the same gentleman, one day later—Oct. 26th,* "From Tuesday, 12 o'clock, to Wednesday, 12 o'clock, the number of deaths were 15. From Wednesday 12 o'clock, to Thursday, 12 o'clock, number of deaths 16. The virulence of the disease is about the same as ever. General business is at a stand—though men's fears are abating, the cholera cloud is hovering over us."

The following apposite remarks of this intelligent writer are worthy of special notice. "One circumstance," saith he, "is to be taken into consideration, which ought to tranquilize our alarms, it is, that almost every death is reported to be by the ASIATIC CHOLERA. Suppose a person dies of some aggravated form of billious fever, or of a *cholera morbus*, or bilious cholic; he is report-



ed to die of the malignant cholera: And why? The physicians take refuge behind this pestilence: they exculpate themselves from the want of skill, by charging all the mortality to the cholera. Upon the shoulders of this plague, do they repose all their blunders, and their ignorance. All this is very well for their reputation. The doctor is excused for an unsuccessful treatment of the cholera, for it is regarded as an all-destroying pestilence; while bilious fevers and local diseases of the country, ought to be better understood, and more generally mastered.

I am confident a great number of reputed cholera cases, are not such. One instance has come beneath my eye. A young gentleman died yesterday, after a sickness of ten days: His physician reported him as a cholera victim. Now there is not a doubt, but that his bowels were much affected—during his sickness he had a vomiting and purging—but, there was no collapse, no cramps or spasms, no gradual coldness, commencing at the feet and extending to the stomach—no cold, clammy sweat exuding from the skin—no cold shivering breath—nor did his countenance bear in death, that awful, indelible stamp, which nothing but the cholera can impress; nor was the surface of his body of that dull blue color, which almost invariably marks the victim of the cholera;—yet the physician had the effrontery to report his case, as an instance of death by the prevailing pestilence.”

A gentleman has addressed us a line from on board the steam boat *Champlain*, below Portsmouth, Ohio, under date of October 24th, from which we extract the following passages:—“I have had the satisfaction of finding myself among the friends of the Thomsonian system, both on the canal and on board this boat. The captain of the steam boat informed me, that his brother had lately had a severe attack of the cholera, which he witnessed, and was convinced that his recovery was entirely owing to the liberal use of good W. India pepper-sauce. The circumstances were as follows: He left his brother and went on board his own boat in the evening, his brother being in good spirits, and apparently in good health, with

the exception of little debility, the consequence of a laxative state of the bowels, with which he had been troubled for eight or ten days. In about half an hour after this separation, he was hailed by the hands on board his brother's boat, who stated that his brother was prostrate on the cabin floor, nearly dead with the cholera. He immediately repaired on board his brother's boat, and found his situation to be fully as bad, as had been represented. The vital heat was so nearly overcome, that he was scarcely able to speak a word—no pulsation could be perceived, he complained of a death-like coldness, and begged, in the best manner he could, for the bottle of pepper-sauce. His brother refused his feeble, though earnest solicitations for some minutes, but reluctantly yielded at last, with a firm conviction, that his life could not be cut short many minutes by any application; and as his brother urged him as his last and dying request, he poured out a half tumbler full of it, and placed it to his cold, quivering lips, and he received and swallowed it greedily. Immediately after drinking the first draught, he renewed his entreaties, for another tumbler full;—this he utterly refused, telling him that what he had already given, he should suppose would be sufficient to kill any man, and that he trembled when he thought of the quantity he had already taken. However, he soon became convinced of the beneficial effects of the cayenne. The pulse soon became perceptible—the extremities began to feel a glow of returning warmth—his haggard visage became placid and serene—his agonies were over, and the man speedily recovered his usual health. What can the enemies of the Thomsonian system say to such facts? Was this Thomsonian guilty of any crime in saving his brother? Reader, say, guilty or not guilty? Not guilty, of course, because the man was not “*sick much*,” as it is often said.—Truly, the regular faculty have the advantage of us here,—our patients are not “*sick much*,” because we cure them, but there is proof positive that with the graduated physicians, especially in sickly seasons, their patients are mostly all very sick—yea sick “*even unto death*.”

Another part of this communication is dated at Cincinnati, Oct. 25th. He states that we have wrongfully censured our friends in the city, accusing them of negligence in making their communications, concerning the cholera, its treatment, &c.: But the fact is they have no leisure for any such business—they are not allowed the time needful for rest and usual refreshments. Had there been fifty additional steam doctors here, to have encountered the cholera, they would in all probability have had more patients than they could have given strict attention to. The people are becoming convinced of the superiority of the Thomsonian system and remedies. In cases of cholera, there is no mistake on this point.

As soon as possible, we shall have a full and accurate report from our friends here. The disease is truly an awful plague. It appears to be on the decline for a few days past. This is the opinion of our city friends. The official reports are in low credit: I find but few who place any confidence in them. I visited some patients to-day with Dr. D\*\*\*; one of whom was in a collapsed state yesterday. He is now convalescent; yet, he more resembles a dead than a living man. Brace your mind for the reception of a foe, determined in his purpose, and rapid in his movements. After the disease is fairly checked, we may not remit our efforts, for a single moment. The practitioner, by relaxing his efforts may loose his recovering patient. The system, roused to action, our labor must be faithfully continued. Much reliance is placed on the syringe and the third preparation, appropriate food must not be neglected."

We are pleased with the minute details of our correspondent, and wish we had room to commit to our columns the whole communication.

#### NOTICE.

The RECORDER is published semi-monthly, at two dollars a year, or, for every 26 numbers.

A list of agents, omitted in this number, will appear, corrected and enlarged in our next.

We intend collecting and publishing

the most accurate accounts attainable, of the cholera and its progress in Cincinnati. We are happy to learn that it is on the decline; it will probably be extinct in a short time.

Our subscription list has increased, beyond our expectations; we hope our agents and friends, will exercise a laudable industry in the good cause.

We are pleased, that so many are taking the precaution to obtain medicine as a preventative of the cholera. We believe in the old proverb, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." We keep constantly on hand a good supply of botanic medicine, and will ever be happy to accommodate customers in the most obliging manner in our power.

Many things of interest intended for this number, are unavoidably omitted for want of room.

We are happy to announce the arrival of Dr. Samuel Thomson in this town. His attendance at the Thomsonian Convention, to be held at Columbus on the 16th of Decembor next, is now rendered certain, if his life and health should be continued. Should the cholera visit us, while he remains among us, we hope to have the opportunity, to witness a successful administration of his efficient remedies, by his own skilful hands.

#### THE RECORDER,

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# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"

"And practice be combined with common sense."

Vol. I. COLUMBUS, Nov. 17, 1832. No. 4.

## DESULTORY ESSAYS,

On medical practice, ancient and modern, embracing various incidents of the Thomsonian System, and illustrations of the importance of the Thomsonian practice, to the safety and happiness of community.

By HONESTUS.

## ESSAY II.

### MEDICAL CONTENTIONS.

I. A gentleman of some celebrity in the profession, observes, "it would be happy for society, and certainly honorable for the parties, if all the contentions," of the faculty "were only from the desire to discover, establish and defend the *truth*. This disposition certainly ought more especially to influence gentlemen in the profession of medicine; the science of which, it must be acknowledged, is yet much involved in the darkness of hypothesis and conjecture."

II. "These," says Dr. Ring, "Are the *bane* of the profession"—"speculation and hypothesis are always at variance with sound experience and successful practice." Shall not the testimony of Dr. Thomson be received, when supported by a cloud of witnesses? "That the doctors have not any system," says Thomson, "Is a fact pretty generally acknowledged among themselves, or at least, they have not any fixed and general rule for their practice." There is not any settled principles; any definite, certain, tangible and established rules, unless we should admit the almost promiscuous and universal use of calomel, opium, emetic tartar and the lancet, for every disease, as obviating this charge against the faculty.

III. "Almost every great man among them," adds Thomson, "has a system of his own, which has been followed by their adherents, until some other one has been brought forward

and become more fashionable"—for we cannot be ignorant that fashion is as changeable among the faculty, as among the bonnet makers, or the changes of the weather in our fickle climate.

IV. To wander in such an intricate wilderness of doubt and conjecture, is an evil of no trivial magnitude. Among so many theories, every thing floats on the wide water of uncertainty; the rise and fall, the mutability, and perpetual revolutionary successions, of theoretical fashions, bewilder the honest student, intent on correct instruction, and confuses the minds of our wisest professors. The ceaseless conjectures, perpetual changes, anarchy, confusion, altercations and strife for pre-eminence, in our medical colleges and universities, demonstrate, that something is rotten at the core in these institutions—that they have been badly conducted—that they have so far, been an imposition on a credulous community. They have promised much and effected but little. In attempting to elevate the standard of medical pedantry, they have grown giddy with their imaginary elevation; on fancy's dizzy height they stand, demanding the obsequious homage and adulation of the world.

V. Whoever candidly examines the facts in this case will acknowledge the truth of Dr. Thomson's assertion concerning these perpetual mutations; these constant changes, leave "every thing uncertain and there can be no dependence on any thing" in which they would have us to confide—"Their practice must be experimental; no useful knowledge can be obtained by the young practitioner" from such preceptors," assuming to be masters of the healing art. Involved in such intricate labyrinths of uncertainty, "they will be constantly seeking after new theories."

VI. If our expectations have been raised too high, if an erroneous estimation of medical colleges, and medical theories have bewildered the minds, and perverted the judgements of the community at large—it is high time to recede from the delusive elevation, and recover wandering reason to her native throne.

VII. The elevation to which the medical faculty have long been aiming, is all a dream of sycophantic aspirants after vulgar admiration—The spell begins to break, while we think and write the charm is fast dissolving. We feel irresistably drawn to the conclusion, that these deceptious estimations have been extravagant, far beyond their deserts. They have done “so little to meet the public expectation—having managed their concerns so wretchedly, “in the worst possible manner,” as they publicly acknowledge! No wonder they seek patronage from the state and *exclusive* protection by the law. If the law did not give them special protection, they would soon be summoned to the tribunal of common sense, and made amenable at the bar of reason, truth, and justice, for their extravagant and untenable demands of implicit confidence.

VIII. “We arrive at certainty,” says the ingenuous writer above quoted, “only through a long process of deductive reasoning, *supported by facts* and experiments, and confirmed by observation and long experience. Indeed, truth is no where bestowed with unconstitutional profusion: its access to the mind is too often prevented by prejudice and passion. If we would possess it, it must be sought after and cultivated with all the powers of human reason. To this end our exertions should be united; but if opinions are opposed, let the opposition be encouraged only with the hope, that the collision will excite and kindle into light the latent sparks of truth.”

IX. These quotations from a res-

pectable source, are worthy to be engraven, not only in letters of gold, upon our door posts, and the walls of our universities—but to be impressed in indelible characters, on the hearts of all the faculty, and to be proclaimed to the ends of the earth. Deductive reasonings, facts experiments, observations and intellectual labour are indispensable, for the certain acquirement of truth, to conquer the prejudices and subject the passions, that so often preclude its access to the mind; that we may conquer all difficulties, and rise superior to the frowns or flatteries that surround us; to personal interest and the influence of great names, and bow unshackled to its hallowed power.

X. Such is the malign influence, the physical power and operation of prejudice, both among the illiterate and the learned, that the same sentiments, had they been literally expressed by Dr. Thomson, as we have quoted them from one of the regular faculty, they would not have met with a candid rational reception. They who lean exclusively on legal patronage and protection, would have rejected the whole as an illnatured medical heresy, for which the abetter ought to suffer the penal infliction of fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of a court, that could never redress his wrongs or administer justice.

XI. Present interest, the pride of the moment, pending prospects of personal honors and emoluments, hold a magic spell over sordid illiberal minds: Ambitious of popularity, their political and religious creed frequently is, that the end justifies the means. Like a dead fish in a river, they drift with the stream. They have no use for the labour of long and patient investigation in searching for truth. Truth and falsehood are with them of equal value, which ever, can be made to subserve the grand design—The only desideratum is popular applause, and the ready, cash.

**XII.** Many put on the ostensible appearance, of greatness, goodness, generousness, nobleness, and benevolence of mind, for sinister purposes, but touch them on a point, that depresses the twig, where the humbird of self-approbation sits perched, or chafe them by a slight collision with their pecuniary interest, and they suddenly manifest, a low, base, groveling illiberal, persecuting spirit. They will then evince that their good humor, urbanity, benevolence and accommodating demeanour, has all been a forced state of mind.

**XIII.** These apparently amiable qualities, urged into being by the stimulus of a wanton ambition, for personal advantage, purse and fame, mere ephemeral advantages, that sordid hearts and vanity-stricken brains aspire to, are readily detected when put to the test. In time of temptation they will fall away. The moment the enchanted stream of personal, exclusive advantages begins to fail, the veil drops, and their true character stands revealed in its native ugliness. The angel of light, that smiled on the countenance, in more propitious days, flits his way to some far distant region, or frowns a gloomy demon at the approach of competition.

**XIV.** Amidst these conflicting passions, this war of elements, truth, immortal and omnipotent, works its resistless course—carries with it intrinsic evidence of its certainty and value; though prejudice, passion and self interest, may cast temporary obstructions in its royal way, it progresses with gigantic steps, to the permanent establishment of its invincible authority. Facts, experiments and observations, like Aaron and Hur sustaining Moses at the battle of Rephidim, will support her hallowed hands—with the Amalek of falsehood, imposture and legalised quackery she declares everlasting war; a war of extermination; vainly dream her enemies of successfully opposition, to oppose her ultimate

triumph, is a stong delusion. The darkness of former ages gradually recedes, the sunshine of simple truth begins to radiate the footsteps of honest enquirers—The revolution in medical science is truly amazing.

**XV.** Do we arrive at certainty in the science of medicine, by “deductive reasoning,” “supported by facts and experiments and confirmed by observation and long experience?” so says the venerable author we have quoted. So it is written, and so we believe. These sentiments are fundamental to the cause of medical reform which we have so zealously espoused. They constitute an impregnable bulwark round the system and practice of Dr. Thomson.

**XVI.** Whatever envy may suggest, or malice devise, Thomson's production, his New Guide has a high claim to our admiration and gratitude: Not for a pompous display of scholastic vanity—not by exhausting the vocabulary of technicalities, that degrade the profession, but for originality of thought, depth of research, the magnitude and importance of his discoveries, and the accumen and strength of argument employed in the development and defence of his system.

**XVII.** Should any opponent have the assurance to prefer the charge of plagiarism against him, it stands refuted in every page: No such charge can be sustained. The work contains much in a small compass. It is not a crude useless, voluminous budget of learned nonsense, but a plain, intelligible, straight forward statement of facts of uncommon interest, in which every living man has a deep stake. Every lover of truth would do well to lend an active agency to diffuse the joyful tidings, until the four winds waft the information to the whole family of civilized man.

**XVIII.** We would not attempt to eulogise—The work requires no such patronage to support its claims on public attention. It has not been

the labour of a speculating genius, courting attention, popularity, applause and perishable treasure, but the work of an honest man, compelled by necessity, by nature's first law, self preservation, or what is paramount the preservation of the health and lives of a beloved family. It has not been the work of a few hours, or a few days but, as himself observes, it has been a task of much difficulty and labor." "To comprise in a short compass, and to convey a correct understanding of the subject, from such a mass of materials as he had been enabled to collect, during a practice of thirty years, was a business of no small magnitude."

**XIX.** During the long and tedious years of labor, toil, and implacable persecutions, accompanied with legal oppressions, pecuniary losses, & innumerable perils; his mind became inured to intense application, patience in suffering and indefatigable zeal, diligence and perseverance in the grand design. He was not building on other mens labours. He was not propagating doctrines, or prescribing remedies, recommended by colleges, and sanctioned by the regular faculty. The whole posse-comitatus of the schools of physic were arrayed against him. All that could be enlisted by interest, connection, prejudice and vulgar credulity took the field and declared war. Thomson stood firm. The billows of opposition rolled heavily against him, but they broke against a rock which they could not move. In defiance of fines, imprisonments and chains, his capacious, active, enterprising, benevolent soul, with zeal indefatigable, pressing after truth, seized her hallowed hand, wherever found, and shouts of victory have every where announced the conqueror crowned with unfading laurels.

**XX.** His laborious researches, and faithful assiduous investigations, were judiciously and successfully conducted and have resulted in the discom-

feiture and confusion of unreasonable and wicked opponents. Thomson could not be induced to sit down contented with merely "deductive reasonings:" With these, *alone* he was never satisfied: no, his reasonings must be substantiated—must be "supported by facts, and "confirmed by observation, and long experience."

**XXI.** In Doctor Thomson's "NEW GUIDE TO HEALTH," we are not presented with the airy flights of a whimsical infatuated imagination, or, a book-worm's dreams. It is not the work of an hired scrivener, cloistered in a lonely garret, to brush cob-webs from his school-clogged brains, to amuse the querimonious multitude, fond of trifles No, but "AFTER THIRTY YEAR'S STUDY," not in Hebrew, Greek and Latin, not in medical schools and colleges, not to acquire names, and technical terms, to conceal his ignorance; not to make a farcical parade of learning, and by bombastic ribaldry and nonsense, impose on the credulous, astonish his former associates with his present wisdom, and confound the multitude by his profound attainments: No! But in fields and woods, o'er hills and dales, by purling streams, or lonely ponds, where e'er his medicines grew, by ditch, or wall, in sunny meadows, or the woodland shade; there was his MATERIA MEDICA:—Thence, he gleaned his harmless, inoffensive, but efficacious and unequivocal remedies.

**XXII.** It was not in a class of young men, attending lectures, but in the rooms of labor and travail, in the presence chamber of parturition, *where children are born*, that he studied midwifery.

**XXIII.** It was by the beds of the sick, in the immediate halls of affliction, where suffering humanity implored his aid, that he studied therapeutics—reduced his system to practice—applied his remedies, tested his skill, by adapting the means to the ends required.

XXIV. His trials and success have eventuated, in the establishment of a theory, "supported by facts, and experiments, and confirmed by observation and long experience." He has permanently established the reputation of his system, and the character of his remedies, on an immutable basis: He has kindled into visible light, many latent sparks of truth, that through the long toil of revolving ages passed, lay hid in the rubbish of an absurd, bewildering, prescriptive philosophy.

XXV. His cause, is the cause of humanity: He has a claim upon the confidence and gratitude of the world. Courts of law have decided in his favor—perjury has faltered in his presence, and the God of nature and providence have elevated him to a niche in the temple of fame, that defies the competition of college standards of medical eminence.

### CAUSES OF DISEASE.

The causes of most of our diseases, or at least of that numerous class which it is in our power entirely to prevent, may be enumerated thus:

1. *Insufficient Exercise.*—He who does not spend several hours every day in some active exercise—as walking, riding on horse back, or in some amusement which calls nearly all the muscles in play, must inevitably suffer from a diminution of bodily strength, defect of appetite, and imperfect digestion, and become sooner or later the subject of disease.

2. *Late rising and late retiring.*—There are few things which contribute more to shorten life, than the habit of keeping late hours, and consequently of rising from bed late in the morning. The advances of weakness and disease from this cause are, it is true, by very gradual steps, but not the less certain to be ultimately felt.

3. *Breathing impure air.*—A constant supply of fresh air is even more important than that of food and drink. An individual may for a long time,

control the sensation of hunger, or even the more imperious one of thirst, but life will most certainly be destroyed, if pure air be withheld from the lungs for a very short period. The air is rendered impure by being loaded with animal and vegetable exhalations, by its free circulation being prevented by a number of persons breathing it when confined in a close chamber, and by the processes of fermentation and combustion.

4. *Insufficient ablutions of the body.*—It is not enough for the preservation of health, that merely the hands, the feet and the face be washed frequently, but that the whole surface of the body be repeatedly purified, by immersion, in a bath of appropriate temperature. To all, the frequent use of the bath is an important means of preserving health, but to none more so, than to the laborer and mechanic: to such the time and means for bathing should be afforded in every city, and in every extensive manufactory wherever situated.

5. *Inattention to cleanliness of clothing and dwellings.*—Independently of the injury which the health of individuals suffer from a neglect of strict personal and domestic cleanliness, the contamination of filth accumulated in and about a dwelling, has not unfrequently been communicated to whole families and neighborhoods. Repeatedly white-washing the walls of a house, and scrubbing the floor, is not merely, therefore, a source of tasteful comfort, but a direct means of preserving health.

6. *Food rendered pernicious by modern cookery. Adulterations in food and drink, and abuse of appetite.*—While a moderate quantity of plain wholesome food—in other words, the food in ordinary use, is essential to the maintenance of life—all excess in its use—all complicated processes of cookery, and every artificial means, whether by high seasoning, variety of dishes or foreign flavors, of keeping up



the appetite beyond the wants of the system, are decidedly injurious. Every species of adulteration, also, to which our food or drink is subjected, from whatever motive, detracts from its wholesomeness. Let it be recollected, too, that the health and strength of the body are not supported by the quantity of food consumed but only by so much as is capable of being converted by the powers of the stomach, into pure chyle and blood.

7. *The use of intoxicating drink in any quantity.*—The only wholesome drink, the only one adapted to the wants of the system, is pure water.—Every drop of alcohol which is taken into the stomach, whether in the form of ardent spirits or fermented liquors, produces injury; and when its use is habitually indulged in, even though absolute drunkenness be not occasioned, the powers of life are gradually undermined and the system laid open to the inroads of serious and even fatal diseases.

8. *Defective and improper clothing.*—Injury to health may be caused either by the clothes being inadequate to defend the wearer from the cold, or from sudden changes in the weather, by their impeding the free motions of the limbs, or by their compressing or binding too firmly some part of the body.

9. *The influence of cold.*—In the more opulent ranks of society, diseases are produced occasionally by the unequal and imperfect diffusion of warmth throughout an apartment—by exposure to the night air or inclement weather, after being heated in crowded apartments, or by exercise, as dancing, &c. In the poorer and provident classes, cold, during the winter, is a continued and fruitful source of suffering disease.

10. *Intense and protracted application of the mind.*—Alternate rest and activity, as well of the body as of the mind, are essential to the support of health. Long continued mental ap-

plication, whether in study or the cares of business, wears out the system, and exhausts the powers of life even more rapidly than protracted manual labor.

11. *Giving way to the passions.*—Experience fully proves, that nothing contributes more effectually to guard the system from diseases, and to prolong life, than a calm and contented state of mind. Individuals who give way on every occasion to the influence of passion not only injure materially their health, but are often promptly destroyed. Violent anger and ambition, jealousy and fear, have produced the speedy death of thousands. In cultivating an amiable, peaceful and virtuous disposition, therefore a man not only insures his happiness but promotes his health.

12. *The unnecessary or imprudent use of medicines.*—Domestic quackery has ruined many constitutions. A dose of medicine taken with the view of preventing an attack of diseases, not unfrequently invites one which otherwise would not have occurred.—The absurd practice of losing blood, or taking purgatives and other remedies in the spring and autumn, under the erroneous idea that by so doing the blood is rendered more pure, should be carefully avoided.

### POPULAR TRADITIONS.

In Macedonia, near Ecisso Verbeni, is a lake, of which the people have a tradition, that it was caused by taking great stones out of the side of a mountain; whereupon there issued out such a flood of water that the country around was inundated, and a lake formed. It is reported of Thessaly, that the whole country was under water until a passage was formed by the river Peneus by an earthquake.

Near the mountains of Riegeburg, or Giant's mountain, about the head of the river Elbe, a spirit, by name Rihensal, is said to infest the country. Such reports are common in places where mines exist. A spirit is report-



ed to haunt the silver mines of Brunswick; and another to be in the tin mine of Slackenwalde, in Bohemia, and to walk in the shape of a monk, who strikes the miners, sings and plays on the bag-pipes, and doth many such tricks.

It is asserted in Wales, that the knockers, a class of aerial beings, bore, blast, and labor briskly in the mines; and were heard at work in some, at Llanvihangel Ysgeiviog, in Anglesea, in 1799.

In Cornwall, it is believed by the workmen, that the Jews formerly possessed the mines; and the tools which are found in those which have been neglected, they call "Allan Sarisin."

Of a mountain of Norway, called the Gate Field, which is always covered with snow, there is a tradition that the inhabitants having spent the Sabbath in rioting and intemperance, a snow storm came and buried the church, to which a party had gone to a wedding. On this mountain, it is reported, are the ruins of a building similar to a church, within the limits of perpetual snow.

The Norwegians believe in the existence of a supernatural being called Nipen—to whom they make christmas offerings of cakes and beer, and to whose interference they attribute their good or evil fortune. They universally entertain a fear of the subterraneous people, who are supposed to be able to change their form whenever they please, and in confirmation of this superstition, they relate that three hundred cattle, belonging to the Bishop of Drontheim, whilst grazing amongst the Rooras Mountain, were enticed away by the subterranean people, and totally disappeared in a crack of the earth. This has given rise to a proverb: "Remember the Bishop of Drontheim's cattle;" implying the necessity of attention to your affairs.

On the banks of the Moisen, in Norway, not far distant from Vang, the city of Stor Hammer formerly stood.

It is said to have been more than seven English miles in circumference, and to have contained, besides a palace and cathedral, many churches, monasteries, and other public edifices. It is now four hundred years since its sight has been pointed out, except by tradition. No vestige of the city at present remains.

Dr. Clarke, while travelling in Sweden, was informed by the peasantry that some vast stones which he saw there, had been left in that situation by the giants.

The tradition of ruined cities is common to all countries. In Cornwall it is believed that the land formerly extended many miles farther than it does at present, and that some of the neighboring islands formed part of the continent. On the coast of Brittany, there is a tradition that a city, now destroyed by the sea, once exceeded in magnificence the present capital of France. The same story is related in Cornwall and Somerset.

On the coast of North Wales, the present inhabitants say, that by an irruption of the sea, about the year A. D. 500, a great number of cities, and the whole of a tract called the Lowland Hundred, were destroyed, and now form a great part of the Bay of Cardigan. On the coast of Suffolk, "Dunwich, or the splendid city," is said formerly to have been swallowed up by the sea. At present it has no place of public worship.

**MYSTERIOUS NUMBERS.**—All those mysterious things we observe in numbers come to nothing upon this very ground; because number in itself is nothing, has not any thing to do with nature, but is merely of human imposition, a mere sound; for example, when I cry "one o'clock, two o'clock, three o'clock," that is but one division of time; the time itself goes on, and it had been all one in nature, if those hours had been called nine, ten and eleven: so, when they say the seventh

son is fortunate, it means nothing; for if you count from the seventh backwards, then the first is the seventh: Why is not he likewise fortunate?

**PICKLE EATERS.**—I must not omit (says a correspondent of Hone's Year Book, describing the fair of Utrecht) that another peculiarity was the large quantity of pickles offered for sale, and the avidity with which they were devoured. Upon the counters of the shop booth, cucumbers, gerkins, beans, beet root, mangoes, tomatoes, &c. floated prettily in large glass jars of vinegar with spices. Young and old of both sexes went up without ceremony, took a plate and fork, dipped for slices in the jars, and ate them by large mouthfuls at discretion, paying, when done, as familiarly as our dandies at a pastry-cook's. We could scarcely believe that they swallowed raw pickle, without accompaniment, in such quantities, but we tasted a few specimens, and were convinced, of the fact. We watched one man in particular, to see how long he would continue eating. I should be ashamed to state the result; we could only ejaculate Shakspeare's benevolent wish, "May good digestion wait on appetite." This custom, which prevails between meals, may partly account for the extraordinary frequency of the word *Apothek*, above the doors in every town in Holland.—These apothecaries' shops, too, are among the best fitted up and largest of any, giving strong evidence of a flourishing trade. They have outside, a large painted, staring head, with the mouth wide open, as if gaping for a bolus—a sign denoting relief to pickle eaters, in cases of emergency.

#### ON DEATH.

The following sublime effusion, which we do not recollect to have read before, and with the authorship of which, we are entirely unacquainted, chanced to fall into our hands, a day or two since, among other rel-

ics of a deceased friend. A fine imagination is blended with a fervent piety, in reflections like these:

"Heavens! what a moment must be that, when the last flutter expires on our lips! what a change! Tell me, ye who are deepest read in nature and in God, to what new worlds are we borne? What new being do we receive? whether has that spark, that unseen, that uncomprehended intelligence fled? Look upon the cold, lived, ghastly corse that lies before you! That was but a shell, a gross and earthly covering, which held for a while the immortal essence that has now left it—left it, to range, perhaps, through limitless space; to receive new capacities of delight, new powers of perception; new glories of beatitude! Ten thousand fancies rush upon the mind, as it contemplates the awful moment between life and death! It is a moment big with imaginations' greatest hopes and fears; it is the consummation that clears up all mystery—resolves all doubts—which removes contradiction, and destroys error.—Great God! What a flood of rapture, may at once burst upon the departed soul. The unclouded brightness of the celestial regions—the pure existence of ethereal being—the solemn secrets of nature may be divulged; the immediate unity of the past, the present and the future; strains of unimaginable harmony, forms of imperishable beauty, may then suddenly disclose themselves, bursting upon the delighted senses and bathing them in immeasurable bliss! The mind is blest in this excess of wondrous light, and dares not turn from the heavenly vision to one so gloomy, so tremendous as the department of the wicked! Human fancy shrinks back appalled.

*The Lady's Book.*

#### MEDICAL SUPERSTITION.

Medical superstition has taken possession of the world. It is high time that public attention be diverted from these corrupt channels, to a candid, so-

ber inquiry after truth. We are weary of the quackish nostrums, the catholicons, that are palmed upon the community as sovereign remedies for diseases, that like Swaim's Panacea, contain the most deadly poisons. The patient, reads a pompous recommendation of a medicine of which he has no knowledge and swallows it with greediness. If he knew its component parts, he would fly from it as from the fangs of a rattle-snake. The pagan spirit of idolatry delights in mystery and courts imposition. The refinements of civilization, the progress of science, and the various systems of philosophy, ethics and theology, have not yet prevailed to the extermination of idolitrous superstitions. The pulse examiners and water smellers still impose on the ignorance of the multitude. They do not stop to inquire how these esculapian gentry can tell by my pulse, or the color and scent of my urine, whether I have a pain in my big toe or in my heel. But with the superannuated, hysterical and credulous, the impostor finds his mark. The believer in witches and fairies is a manageable subject, on whom to practice his art. "In truth," as a modern writer observes, "there is an unaccountable propensity in the human mind, unless subjected to a very long course of discipline, to indulge in the belief of what is improbable and supernatural; and this is perhaps more conspicuous in respect to physic, than to any other affair of common life; both because the nature of diseases, and the art of curing them are more obscure, and because disease naturally awakens fear, and fear and ignorance are the natural parents of superstition." Star gazers, witch masters and water smellers avail themselves of this degrading propensity to abuse the ignorant and sack their pockets. They neither understand the aspects and configurations of the stars, nor the nature of diseases and their remedies—hence the "introduction of a rabble of supersti-

tious remedies." These were originally intended rather as expiations offered at the "shrine of some offended spirits, than as natural agents possessing medicinal powers."

### THE TOMB OF HIPPOCRATES.

"A propensity to attribute every ordinary and natural effect to some extraordinary and unnatural cause, is one of the striking peculiarities of medical superstition: It seeks also explanations from the most preposterous agents, when obvious and natural ones are in readiness to solve the problem. Soranus, for instance, who was contemporary with Galen, and wrote the life of Hippocrates, tells us that honey proved an easy remedy for the apthae (the sprue) an eruptive sore mouth of children; but instead of at once referring the fact to the medical qualities of the honey, he very gravely explains it, from its having been taken from bees that lived near the tomb of Hippocrates!!!"

### HERBS AND PLANETS.

(AN EXTRACT.)

"The salutary virtues which many herbs possess, were in the times of superstitious delusion, attributed rather to the planet under whose ascendancy they were collected or prepared, than to any natural and intrinsic properties in the plants themselves: Indeed, such was the supposed importance of planetary influence, that it was usual to prefix to receipts a symbol of the planet under whose reign the ingredients were to be collected. It is not perhaps generally known, that the character which we at this day place at the head of our prescriptions, which is understood and supposed to mean *recipe*, is a relict of that astrological symbol of Jupiter, as may be seen in many of the older works on pharmacy, although, it is at present so disguised, by the addition of the down stroke, which converts it into the letter R, that were it not for the cloven foot, we

might be led to question the fact of its superstitious origin."

### SIDEREAL INFLUENCE.

"A knowledge of the ancient and popular belief in sidereal influences, will enable us to explain many superstitions in physic." Many, even in this enlightened day are so infatuated and befooled by the irrational belief of planetary power and influence over all animate and inanimate things, that they will not take a puke or a purge, only at certain stated periods or seasons. They foolishly imagine that emetics, purgatives and other medicines, will operate more certainly and favorably, at particular stages of the moon, or at certain conjunctions of the planets. Men called christians can be found in multitudes, who will neither plant, sow, reap, take medicine or bleed, unless they account the sign to be right. They regard not that revelation by which they pretend to be guided: The scripture saith expressly, "Be not dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the heathen are dismayed at them." Again, "he that observeth the winds shall not sow, and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap." Vain is the attempt to reconcile the profaneness of such superstition with the christian oracles. We marvel to read of the Hindoos' delusion in bowing to Juggernaut, but when I see a man gathering twigs from a tree in cuts of exactly three inches in length, and from such limbs only as point towards the rising sun.—another peeling bark from the north side of a round tree, and taking it exactly two feet and two inches from the ground, and discover these ceremonies so circumspectly attended to, with a view to increase the medical efficacy of the articles obtained, I feel indignant, that persons of common intellect can be the dupes of such impertinent superstitions. I am acquainted with a man of respectability, that always sows his flax-seed in April, when the moon is exactly 17

days old, and puts it off until 9 o'clock in the evening, that by reason of the darkness, or the lateness of the hour, the insect world are all asleep; he confidently expects the worms will never meddle with his crop.

It is in vain to expostulate and summon their degraded reason into action, for the tyranny of superstition holds a deadly grasp.

They will plead the authority of their experience and observation.—Such superficial observers, in their appeals to their experience, remind me of the shrewd youngster contending for the durability of cedar rails; he affirmed that they would last a thousand years, for his father had made the experiment a hundred times.

Doctor Thatcher tells us, that to milk a cow upon the ground will dry up her milk—and kitchen maids assure us that if a farmer's boy kills swallows, all his cows will give bloody milk. All such foolish, whimsical, lowly superstitions are the result of tuition. That such a spawn of vulgar credulity should ever addle the brains of so many who have otherwise tolerable claims to common sense, and have enjoyed means of information, is truly matter of astonishment and regret.

Vulgar confidence in secret patent medicine, arises from the same inconsiderateness and a measure of the same superstitious credulity.

There is nothing of the quackish imposing influence, alluded to, in any part of the Thomsonian practice. He informs you what medicine to use, where to obytate it, how to prepare it, and makes you acquainted with all its operations and consequences. He seeks not to conceal any thing, but to discover every thing that promises any good to mankind. We find nothing in his system of medical practice of any concealment—no foolish mummeries to make fools wonder. You never saw the Thomsonian physician, attending precisely at sun-rise, by a white walnut tree, to peel the bark upward, to ob-

tain a medicine to puke, and precisely at sun-setting, to obtain a medicine by peeling downwards to purge the bowels, or precisely at noon-day, and peeling the bark off round the tree, to obtain a medicine to work off side-ways, through the ribs.

It is most devoutly to be wished, that superstition was banished far hence from the abodes of civilized men, and that reason, unalloyed and undisfigured by impostural devices, was every where advanced to its legitimate throne. Then would they attend to the connection of cause and effect, and rise superior to those foolish idle fancies, that constitute the food of weak and vacant minds.

THE NEW YORK MEDICAL INQUIRER.  
A Note by the Editors:

#### ON FEELING THE PULSE.

Some years ago there resided at Troy, in this state, a man by the name of Davis, called the *Indian Doctor*.—This man possessed the Turkish faculty of telling his patients of all their ailments, in an eminent degree, by the mere *feeling of their pulse*. His skill in this particular, went far beyond the present and existing symptoms; he could tell *how long* they had labored under their infirmities, with all the serious changes the disease had undergone from its first attack! In consequence of this apparent supernatural knowledge of the human system, his fame had spread far and wide, and attracted hundreds of invalids from distant parts of the country, to consult this great doctor. The most sceptic applicant became satisfied of the doctor's wonderful knowledge of their complaints and their feelings, as he always told them as well as they knew themselves, their complaints and their feelings, by only feeling their pulse. The neighboring physicians wondered, everybody wondered, that a man, so decidedly a quack in conduct and appearance, should possess so singular and so popular a faculty. The Indian Doc-

tor however went on, made money, and "laughed in his sleeve," till an unfortunate circumstance for him, developed the whole mystery. The exposition was this—he had a young man in his office, whom he called his *student*. There was a door, which opened from the office into a back room, and whenever there was a call or knock at the front door, the doctor slipped into the back room and closed the door. The patient was admitted by the *student*, and a seat placed for him near the door, where the *doctor* could hear every word he spoke. On inquiry by the patient for the doctor, he was told to "sit down *there*, the doctor had gone out, but was expected in every minute." Now, it is well known how readily invalids communicate and recapitulate their ailments to any one willing to hear them. Of this weakness, the student was instructed to take the advantage, by drawing the patient into conversation, and through his inquiries, all the particulars of the patient's life, habits, disease, and previous treatment, fell distinctly upon the doctor's ear at the *key hole*. Thus instructed, the doctor made his way into the yard, and through the gate into the street, and from thence, as coming from business, he enters his office. Now the farce commenced—upon the patient attempting to introduce the object of his visit, the doctor stopped him short, with—"Sir (or Madam) let me feel your pulse: the physician who cannot tell by the *pulse* what his patients disorder is, is not fit to prescribe for him; now sit down, and I will tell you what is the matter with you as well as you can yourself," and sure enough, to the admiration of the astonished patient, the doctor proves that he knew "how the patient felt, how long he had been sick, how long such a pain had been in such a spot, and how long it had left this spot and moved to that one," as correctly as if he had it from *his own mouth*.

We knew this Davis personally, and



a more impudent and villanous quack never crossed our path. He happened one day to be in a neighboring city, where we resided, and some credulous good-natured friends had prevailed on one of our patients to call him in. We were sent for to consult with the noted *Indian Doctor*; we went, but soon found ourselves under the necessity of telling him he was a quack, impostor and scoundrel; such was the ignorance of the fellow, and the impudence of his pretensions, actually *bearding* us with our *own ignorance* of the disease of our patient! The doctor, however, kindly concluded with an offer to *test our respective merits*, by "each taking a patient, and see whose would be cured first!"—a proposition which we *less kindly* declined.

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## THE RECORDER.

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### COLUMBUS:

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Saturday, Nov. 17, 1832.

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#### I HAVE NO TIME FOR STUDY.

It is to be hoped that this absurd idea will not prevent any from reading the Thomsonian Recorder—that its professed patrons will not be so absorbed in schemes of speculation, buying, selling and getting gain, as to prevent them from giving at least a moderate dividend of their attention to the important facts enrolled on its pages. "The idea," saith an elegant writer, "about the want of time is a mere phantom. Franklin found time, in the midst of all his labors, to dive to the hidden recesses of philosophy, and to explore the untrodden path of science. The great Frederic, with an empire at his direction, in the midst of war, on the eve of battles which were to decide the fate of his kingdom, found time to revel in all the charms of philosophy and intellectual pleasures. Buonaparte, with all Europe at his disposal; with

kings in his anti-chamber begging for vacant thrones, with thousands of men, whose destinies were suspended on the brittle thread of his arbitrary pleasure, had time to converse with books. Caesar, when he had curbed the spirits of the Roman people, and was thronged with visitors from the remotest kingdoms, found time for intellectual cultivation. Every man has time, if he is careful to improve it; and if he does improve it as well as he might, he can reap a three-fold reward.

"Let mechanics, then, make use of the hours at their disposal, if they want to obtain a proper influence in society. They are the life blood of the community; they can, if they please, hold in their hands the destinies of our republic; they are numerous, respectable, and powerful; and they have only to be educated half as well as other professions, to make laws for the nation."

The eyes of the nation are fixed on the farmers and mechanics. Let them every where cultivate their mental faculties. No great revolutions can be effected without their assent and approbation. The important questions in which the health and lives of the community are most deeply interested, rest with them for decision. The Thomsonian system of medical practice specially invites their attention. It has been devised and promulgated with a special design of advancing the welfare of every individual, who may have opportunity to give the subject a fair investigation.

If any complain that they have not time to study Thomson's books, and make themselves acquainted with his system—let them examine the matter more carefully. Which would be the most economical course; to enjoy health yourself, with your little family smiling round, or for some one, two, or three of

you to be sick and unable for business, five or six months in a year, and then to have a heavy doctor's bill to pay? That would cap the climax of your afflictions. The number of converts to Thomsonianism is daily and rapidly increasing. Multitudes of the faculty are coming over—yes, many such, have belived on him, on the safety and efficacy of his discoveries—they flock to the botanical standand. “The Doctors,” says an intelligent gentleman of Alabama, “have continued their persecutions in the public papers, until they have opened their own eyes, and begin to exclaim at their own folly. The wealthy and the talented have embraced the system, one convert makes one or two more, and so we gain ground.”

L. S.

### TRUTH AND ERROR.

Falsehood always endeavors to wear a veil. When an individual professes to have the knowledge of a certain remedy to cure cancers, consumptions, king's evil, epilepsy and the like, but is under a solemn injunction to keep it a profound secret, and never make a discovery thereof to any one, I have learned to feel confident in a moment, that that person is either a knave or a fool, or he has been imposed on himself by some such character. If I know a certain remedy for a dangerous complaint, and will not make it known for a reasonable consideration, I am virtually a murderer: But, the vanity of fools to be thought wise, impels them to take a deceptious course, and the love of gain induces them to practice mean and vulgar artifices, to impose on the credulous for private advantage. The question may be asked, should we, to destroy these errors and suppress these imposing speculations, compel it to silence?

We answer, No! Let it prate on—error delights in the shade of its native obscurity. When once detected, it will be rejected by the wise and good every where. We have some where read this excellent remark, concerning error, “If time has not given it credit, and it be not favored by government, it cannot bear the eye of examination. Reason will ultimately direct wherever it be freely exercised, Query—Would not the former course of medical practice be banished from society in a short time, and would not the botanical practice every where obtain, if the former was not patronized and the latter opposed by government?

X. Y. Z.

### CHOLERA ON THE WING.

A correspondent observes, “Doct. DRAKE has affirmed, without any hesitation, that, “No discovery has yet been made, what can be the cause of such a pestilence,” as the cholera.—After heartily and heavily rejecting the erroneous and whimsical conjectures of others, behold him on the pinnacle of professional elevation, standing tiptoe on the gigantic shoulders of renowned predecessors, overlooks all his condign compeers, however graduated on the scale of medical excellency, and with some new optical instrument, discovers an *invisible* cholera cloud of *invisible* insects, with busy hum and active wing and eyes that never wink, in full flight from old Asia, across an ocean of many thousand leagues, and with a more daring adventurous spirit, than Columbus e'er possessed, without vessel or compass, work their passage west of the Atlantic. He imagines these animalculæ, or little unknown, undiscovered, undiscovorable, *invisibles*, must be of the gnat or “musquetoc family,” which,

probably, like the long lost ten tribes of Israel, naturalists must have thought to be extinct—but they have recently revived, and are determined again to recover, and assume their proper rank and dignity among the insect nations of the earth. Whether, some illustrious personage, with a wonder working rod, like another Moses converting the dust of Egypt into lice, has transformed the sands of Asia, into little, invisible, pestilence gendering insects, we are not fully informed. The gigantic strides of conjecture and philosophic dreams might rest here! But, \*\*\*\* Perhaps these aerial visitants are a race of anti-deluvians, who spread desolating plagues beyond the flood, and for their murdercus inhuman deeds, perished in the general deluge. Having done a long and exemplary penance, in purgatorial fires, after a lapse of many thousand years, reclaimed, reformed by discipline, have been re-cuscitated, and are now allowed to become a legitimate scourge to a guilty world.

We may inhale innumerable millions of these poisonous, invisible and indivisible angels of death at every inspiration. Like mariners circumnavigating the globe, they may navigate and circumnavigate the whole vascular system, sail in mighty navies thro' our hearts, lungs and livers—establish large and populous colonies in some minute capillaries—sit on august and awful thrones, in some remote unexplored regions of a hum-bird's eye. In seasons of great political excitement, when comets shake their horrifying fires o'er trembling nations, portentous of approaching war, they feel a cometary impulse, and scatter desolation far and wide. This is the heroic course of the most valiant and war-making

tribes—while the old and grey-headed, and the female part of their community remain at home to maintain themselves and little ones, and provide for seasons of scarcity. They are a hardy set of villains—they invaded Moscow in the dead of winter, and rivaled all the skill and bravery of NAPOLEON. They are most extraordinary pilots and navigators, not varying a single point, or hair's breadth, for the strongest head winds, or long, cold winter nights, nor halting a moment for rest, or refreshment, unless, some of the officers of distinction, straddle a *moon-beam*, and ride at the head of some grand division. It is even possible, that, like fish in the wide sea, eating fish, they subsist on other and inferior species of insects, smaller than themselves—liable also, at the same time to be scourged for their own immoralities and impieties, by a race of beings, as much smaller than themselves as they are smaller than human kind. As mercury is known to destroy lice, bugs, worms and various kinds of insects, we are not surprised to find the Doctor recommending calomel for cholera. Mercury will kill the gnats, especially if he would pinch them by the nape of the neck, and when they gape open their mouths, put a small portion down their throats. Remove the cause and the effects will cease. Kill the insects and cholera will be done away. Salivate the little rascals, make them spit up the poison and they might become harmless. It is probable the villains are some of them rabid, occasioned by the fatigues, hardships and starvation of the voyage. The doctor may have taken the hint, so as to allow lobelia, known to be excellent for the bite of mad dogs, and other rabid animals. Upon the whole, Doctor Drake's fable of the insects,

bangs Dr. Thomson's chicken broth, gizzard and all!!! Dr. do not be angry. We respect your talents, but can not be the dupes of your folly. When philosophers amuse themselves with trifles, they must learn to be contented, that others, in turn, should amuse themselves in laughing at their vain imaginations. W. P. H.

#### W. EVERETT, vs. DRAKE & Co.

The sapient editor of the *Collustrator*, in a violent paroxysm of colluctation, a species of phrenitis, that may have been occasioned by the toothache, has made a resolute attempt to castigate his venerable PRECEPTOR.—From our statement of his case, at the first glance it may appear complicated, but the accurate observer will discover, that the doctrine of the *unity* of disease, seems to be more *fully confirmed*. Dr. EVERETT, formerly a student of Dr. DRAKE, makes rather a ludicrous appearance, we must confess, in his unceremonious attack upon his master, and his convulsive struggle to cudgel roughly, the steam practitioners over his shoulders.

We agree, with Dr. EVERETT, that, Dr. DRAKE, "seems to be very clever" in admitting, that all Thomsonian remedies may be used in the stage of collapse," in cholera patients, "as he would, on a similar principle, a DECOC-TION of the whole *materia medica*; for when that stage takes place, the patient is virtually past remedy." We shall let the remark stand unmolested, as we think it historically, philosophically and morally correct, and heartily despise all ill-natured criticism.

The restless uneasy pupil, still meddling with his master's business, proceeds to say, "The treatment of the disease, by the regularly educated PHY-SICIANS, has been by STIMULANTS and

purgatives, and of course," yes, sir, this seems quite natural, "the steam doctors pursue the same course, so far as they know, and claim it as their own." But, sir, they are too ignorant to resort to calomel and jalap and other drastic purgatives; they do not imitate the lectured regulars in that point—they have not any fellowship in the purging, mercurialising practice—so far from claiming it as their own, they do not even affect imitation. The student and his master, if willing to stand or fall together, must find themselves astride the horns of a dilemma, where they do not appear to have much advantage over the steamers.

Professor Drake, censures the Thomsonian practice as too stimulating in the incipient stages of cholera, but, allows aromatic camphorated water, and lobelia tea, all stimulants. He allows, that Thomsonian remedies are well suited to the collapsed and dying. Dr. Everett says, "The treatment of the disease, by the regularly educated physicians, has been by STIMULANTS." The steam doctors, he represents, as scenting their track, obsequiously attempting to imitate them: "Steam doctors," he wantonly affirms, "pursue the same course, as far as they know." All this is very kind and clever. Our stimulating course is all right, if we could shove it ahead like the "regularly educated physician." This, "is certainly worth publishing." If by our practice we deceive, kill and destroy as we go, and keep it as quiet as we can, our stimulating scheme is in its nature orthodox: we have only borrowed, adopted and pursued the identical course of the "regularly educated physicians, as far as we know." Had we known more, we might have been as successful in the work of death, and

made as alarming reports, to terrify the world, as the illustrious death-dealing *regular* MODDLES, we so servilely attempt to imitate. Here, would be a more perfect coincidence of character, than now exists. The poor steam doctors, see only in part, but, "any fool can go and do likewise," "as far as he knows." According to this logic, if the steam doctors knew as much as the regularly educated physicians, the world would soon be depopulated.—One point more, and we will endeavor to be quitting the querimonious, quill-driving flagilator of Dr. Drake, and the "deciples of No. 6." He states, "the report, however, that the steam doctors have been generally successful in the cholera, has originated from causes, but too easy to be discovered." This is all true, irrefutably true. It is reported that they have been "generally successful." This report is founded on facts, irrefragible facts. The report is *general*, is substantiated by the most unequivocal testimony. The causes of these reports, are allowed to be general, not a mere local, partial story, hatched and circulated by some ill-natured, interested individual, for some sinister purpose: No, the report is general, that the steam doctors have been successful in cholera. All this is "very clever; but Dr. EVERETT will suffer us, very kindly to be sure, just to advise him to obtain more accurate information on the whole subject embraced in his communication, before he troubles himself, or the public with his gratuitous assumptions, ex-officio.

We do not wish to tease the Doctor's patience, but we wish to hold him by the ear, one moment longer. Who told him, that the cases under the care of steam doctors, "*are not reported*," that "they are presumed to have cured them"? Who has presumed? Who has presumed patients to be cured, who have never heard the REPORT—*that they were sick?* "*mirabile dictu!!*" What a "*very clever*" fabrication!—When you condescend to give us another flagilation, and we are sure you are so "very clever," you will always be willing to give us the rod, when you can find an opportunity to crowd into company; do endeavor, at least, to exercise a little more plain, homespun,

common sense consistency. We are so prone to imitation, we might happily "pursue the same course." Yes, doctor, "as far as we know"—and you are so "very clever," you would wink at the sin of ignorance, and give it as easy a go-by as possible. We ask no unreasonable lenity from his placid hand. At parting, we shall make no apology for saying, abruptly, you lie, sir, under a very gross mistake!!!

#### LETTERS RECEIVED.

An intelligent correspondent in Indiana, under date of October 25th, observes, "I have received the first number of the Thomsonian Recorder, and am much gratified by a perusal of it. Nothing, that I have seen upon the subject, affords more heart-felt satisfaction, than the determined course you are pursuing." State patronage he denominates a "coat of mail." Lectures, diplomas and prejudices, "the ponderous armor of the schools." Yet saith he, "victory is certain without these. Truth is a most effective weapon. If well directed, it must ultimately triumph, and must prostrate all the opposing Goliaths. They may stalk forth with majestic strides, in all the scornfulness and disdain of a great and learned quackery—they may be determined on trampling under foot all opposition to their views, yet ours shall be the grateful task, of trying to ameliorate the miseries and distresses of the human family. No fears need be entertained from the missiles of envy.—The result of the conflict must ultimately be in our favor. Already, the benign influence of the Thomsonian system of medical practice, seems to be gaining ground rapidly in our part of Indiana. Wishing you may meet with much encouragement, you may depend on my best exertions.

Another correspondent, a regular bred physician, from the college of Philadelphia, now resident of Georgia, has addressed us by letter, under date of October 22—he observes, "I have by some fortunate circumstance obtained Samuel Thomson's patent right of the botanical system of practice.—Having engaged in it accordingly, I have from the experience obtained, be-



come much pleased with it. I believe it to be a blessing that ought to be diffused throughout every enlightened country, where its wonderful utility is like to be approbated. Since I have been in possession of the right, I have had it in my power to do much for the character of the practice, in a number of families; and they have been much pleased with it. The practice I believe is looked upon as calculated to be of as much benefit to the community generally, as any discovery now known.

— O. E.

Our correspondent from Hamilton, Ohio, observes, "The principles and practice of the Thomsonian system are advancing here. May the time soon come when all men and women will become their own priests, physicians and lawyers—when self-government, equal rights and moral philosophy will take the place of all popular crafts of every description."

R. H.

The following extract is from a letter dated Liberty Hill, Kershaw District, S. Carolina, Feb. 11, 1832. It is from the pen of the talented patriotic statesman & physician, Dr. Robert D. Montgomery. It was originally addressed to the Rev. Wm. Carlisle.—The contents of the letter have been forwarded to us by R. Ferriss, Esq. of Winsborough, enclosed in a communication bearing date Oct. 19th, 1832.

Mr. Carlisle prefaces the letter by the following remarks: "The circumstances that gave rise to the publication of the following letter, were these, Dr. Montgomery applied to me for a Thomsonian family right, he pledged himself to report his opinion of the system as soon as he should have opportunity of fairly testing it. A request being sent to him by the Thomsonians for that purpose—the following letter is in reply;" after an interesting detail of his patriotism and public services, in conclusion he adds; "suffice it to say, that Dr. Montgomery's opinion of any system is of more importance than the opinion of a thousand self-interested physicians, whose object is to keep the people in ignorance of the nature of disease and consequently of the mode and manner of performing cures."

12

*The following is the letter referred to.*  
Gentlemen—I received your letter on the 10th ult. and on the evening it came to hand, was severely attacked with the cholera morbus, which prevented a more early answer. You request my opinion on the Thomsonian practice of medicine, and inquire something concerning my medical studies, previous to my adopting the botanic practice. I will with pleasure endeavor to satisfy your inquiries, in as brief a manner as I am able. It will perhaps be the most satisfactory course to give a short history of my medical life, then my reasons for adopting the new practice may appear in a more convincing light. After I had finished my collegiate education in the years 1794-5 & 6, I proceeded to the study of medicine in Columbia, S. Carolina, under the tuition of Drs. Montgomery & Henricks, both students of the Rushean school. After this, I attended the medical lectures in Philadelphia, given by Drs. Shepper, Rush, Woodhouse and Barton. Having attended the regular course of lectures under these professors, they adjudged me entitled to a diploma, for my medical knowledge, yet it was contrary to the rules of the institution to give me one, unless I went through another course; my finances would not admit of it at that time, and I never obtained a diploma. After my return from Philadelphia, I fell immediately into practice, but quickly found, that the *theory*, however beautiful it might appear, would by no means agree with the practice. I entered the practice with all the ardor that it is possible for any young physician to possess. Every leisure moment was employed in perfecting my knowledge of the science of medicine; and I flattered myself that I was as successful in my practice, as my cotemporaries: my prospects were flattering and my practice lucrative for fourteen or fifteen years. I then became wearied of the practice, and during the latter part of my time, have given it over, unless constrained by the entreaties of a friend. I could do no better than to pity their distress. You would here inquire, what it was that could induce me to relinquish a gainful practice, and adopt a system of yesterday—to leave the old, beaten track for one

newly opened? I answer, because the marks to point the way to proceed, in the old practice, were fallacious and not to be depended on when life was at stake. Here I would candidly ask the candid physician, if he has not often been deceived, in the symptoms of disease, when flattering himself with the prospect of the speedy recovery of his patient, when he left him, perhaps at evening—the next visit, perhaps the next morning, found him breathing his last? you beheld him surrounded by weeping friends, because they viewed him departing to his long home. In such circumstances, humanity sickens and anxiously inquires, “Is there no relief from disease and premature death?” The answer is to be found in the botanic practice. But, is this practice infallible? Does it never fail? Yes, it may fail, has failed, and will fail, in a number of cases. It has and will fail, of course, when the vital spark is nearly extinct, when the powers of life are destroyed by disease, or when the condition of the patient is such that there is not any thing remaining for the medicine to act upon. Medicine cannot act on a dead body, though it be ever so active. At such a crisis, this practice, as every other, will most assuredly fail: yet, in the midst of all these failures, the new practice will have a decided superiority over every other mode of cure yet known by man. I find by experience in my family, and among my friends, who have used the medicine as directed, that in fevers, it generally relieves the patient in twenty-four hours, and often in less time. A number of cases in my own family, that have been as violent as any under the old practice, which required three or four weeks, before they were able to leave their bed, yet by the Thomsonian practice, these have been relieved in the short time already stated. This practice, under my direction has triumphed over an ascites, or dropsy of the abdomen, in which the old practice had labored

in vain. The bite of a rattle-snake on one of the family, accompanied with violent pain, was freed from all pain in less than ten minutes, and the swelling of the foot and leg was but trifling. In myself, a violent attack of rheumatism and cholera morbus both yielded to the botanic applications. Another fact is worthy of notice; your patient does not suffer the great debility, by a course of the new practice, that commonly takes place in the old. The natural functions are soon restored to their former vigour. The patient forgets that he was sick. Do you wish me to account for this? It is easily done—there is not that prostration of strength by depleting remedies in the new, as in the old practice. Another reason why the same degree of debility is not induced, is that the medicine used is in harmony with the powers of life; hence it is, that, after the operation of the Thomsonian remedies, the patient feels invigorated and cheerful. One other fact which gives the new a decided advantage over the old practice, is that the remedies are the same in all cases that can possibly occur, the object is uniform, viz: The restoration of the natural heat as a primitive vital property, hence a practising physician, acting with a tolerable degree of common discretion cannot err materially in administering the remedies: He is not liable to do an irreparable injury to his patient. This is not the case with the old practice: How often have we witnessed with grief, the baneful effects of medicine on the constitution of the patient. Where is the physician that will acknowledge that his medicine has not often operated in a different manner than he had expected, and that his patient was worse from the use thereof.

A Brown, a Rush and others have declared firmly their belief in the unity of disease, and the unity of cure. Doct. Thomson joins them in the belief, and practices precisely on the principle. Away, then, with you

thousand diseases, and your thousand remedies, and adopt that system of practice that is both safe and salutary to man.

In conclusion, I would add, another reason which makes the Thomsonian practice valuable, and that is its simplicity, or its plain, natural adoption to the illiterate, untutored part of the human family. The poor and illiterate require the attention of the humane and benevolent in all countries, and such are the most numerous class in society: To such, the Thomsonian practice holds out the helping hand, to snatch them from pain and death, and such he invites to a participation of its benefits.

These are some of the considerations which have determined my judgment to the botanic practice of medicine. I am fully confident that whoever will give it a fair trial will rejoice at the success.

I am respectfully yours, &c.

ROBERT D. MONTGOMERY.

It appears that the medical faculty in Alabama, not having sufficient confidence in their own merits and reputation with the people, have taken sanctuary under the wing of legislative provision, for exclusive and monopolizing privileges, hostile to the unalienable rights and high prerogatives of a free community. We rejoice that their craft begins to wane. An intelligent correspondent of Madison Co. observes under date of Oct. 28. The members of our legislature will start to-morrow for the seat of government: They will carry with them fifteen hundred names from *this* Co. who petition for the repeal of the medical law. Many of the people in this section of the country are flying from the regular doctors, as readily as a flock of birds from the shot of the fowler.

A correspondent at St. Louis, under date of Oct. 11, gives us the following

interesting intelligence: "Taking the country with the town practice, we have administered to more than a thousand patients, and many of them of the worst kind of chronic and badly attended diseases; many were cured of their sicknesses, but by the mercurial treatment, a far worse disease was deeply rooted in their ruined systems—in this situation many applied to us for relief as the dernier resort; and we are happy to say, that with the aid of the botanic system, relief was given.

"There has been an unusual prevalence of bowel complaints—A diarrhoea has prevailed through the country during the past summer and fall, thus far. The cholera morbus has had a more universal spread, and been attended with severer symptoms than I have ever known before. In many instances it might have been ranked with the malignant cholera: the premonitory symptoms were the same: the collapsed stage wore the same appearance: the asphyxia or last stage was the same: in many cases, the result was the same as in the most terrifying cases of the epidemic cholera, attended with cramps and various distressing spasmodic affections. In short it was the same, the name only excepted. Some called it the cholera, some contradicted. While the doctors disagreed and waited for the calomel and opium and ice water to operate, ~~the patient died.~~ A considerable number were attended from our shop, and immediate relief given in every case, though some labored under the most disadvantageous circumstances, yet, to the power of the botanic practice, *that*, with all other diseases, has yielded to its faithful application.

#### INNOVATORS.

Our readers are many of them aware that from the time Dr. Thomson made his discoveries and published them to the world, there were individuals who were fully convinced of the truth and

importance of his system of medicine. Among these was one Elias Smith, a clerical camelion, a religionist of all professions. Smith availed himself of several years instruction by Dr. Thomson, and proceeded to publish a small medical work, which he intended should supersede the labors of his master. His pecuniary circumstances we understand, have always been, and are ever like to remain such, as to preclude the doctor from any pecuniary redress, to which he might consider himself entitled, either for his intrusion on his legal privileges, or on any other consideration. The doctor has been unfortunate and disappointed in his agents, and his rights have been invaded and his system abused; either by such as did not understand it, or understanding it, wished to advance their own personal fame and interest, by putting him down. Among the ar-rant adventures for medical fame and pecuniary advantages, connected with their stupendous projects of authorship and speculation, we notice David Rodgers, Charles Miles, Joseph Baker and Horton Howard. We intend nothing of a review of their various publications just now—suffice it to say, they have dishonored their venerable master. Literary pilfering has become extremely fashionable. Thomson is the foundation of the works mentioned. To evade the operation of the patent law, and work their way safely along, they have taken some devious paths, some of which we should not be fond to follow. The public need not be imposed on by purchasing books, or rights, that might bewilder their minds, rather than enlighten. All valuable discoveries in the curative department, that accord with the Thomsonian system, will be carefully committed to the pages of the Recorder. All useful information can be obtained thro' this medium, without purchasing books and rights that leave you destitute of genuine perfection in the knowledge of the original system of practice.

### AN APOLOGY.

An apology is due to our readers, for an illiberal reflection, that inadvertently found its way into the 12d form, of the first number of the Thomsonian Recorder. Haste, inattention, and shuffling of editorial scripts and scraps, among many hands, and a combination of a number of incidents, uninteresting in detail, resulted in its appearance on page 16, No. 1, Vol. I. We do not intend that any censorious sectarian slang, shall ever pollute our pages. We resign the whole arena of religious controversy, to the regular champions of theological wrangling. We hail the wise, the virtuous and the good of every name, as our friends, and determine cordially to reciprocate every token of good will, and not to indulge a spirit of unamiable hostility to any. Doct. Thomson, having noticed the card and comment, wishes to have it distinctly understood, that he has no fellowship with any thing resembling the persecution of a whole sect, for the offence of an individual, or with a scheme of connecting religious debates, or ill-natured reflections on any sect, on account of the peculiarity of their religious tenets, with a work, designed to promote his system of medicine. So chaste a sentiment has the sanction of every candid reader. The patronage and friendship the Doctor has received from that intelligent inoffensive people, would be sadly requited, by indulging the pen of slander, or even a distant intimation of ill will to be blazoned in a work that cordially invites their support.

### H. HOWARD AND OTHERS.

All modern discoveries in the treatment of diseases, that carry any convincing evidence of being useful, we design to collect and publish as fast as practicable. No man need to purchase at an extravagant rate, the works of Horton Howard, or of any other man, with a view to the obtaining such information. Mr. Howard has men-

tioned in his works, several articles, the growth of our own country, but none we apprehend that have not been mentioned by others, whose books are easily obtained at one fourth the price. He has given a number of engravings to represent agrimony, milkweed, pleurisy root, rattlesnake, wild senna, ladies' slipper, yellow puccoon, bowman root, lobelia, white pond lily, in all 24 pictures, printed with wooden types, but tolerably well executed. The design is to give assistance in discovering with more certainty the article he directs you to use. This is all well enough: But any person that could not find out lobelia, cayenne, bayberry, rattle-root or scunk cabbage, without a picture to represent it, would not be a very safe person to trust in the administration of medicine. However, these representations are not entirely useless: At any rate they serve a valuable purpose to enlarge the size and price of a book, and sometimes to help the anxious enquirer at a dead-lift. With a tongue-pads skill he can say much about a trifle. He has quite a tinge of the bookmakers craft. Every thing contained in the book of real importance to the common reader, might be reduced to the size of an almanack. His piece on anatomy, however expensively it might have been obtained, however well written it may be, and we feel no disposition to be finding fault, yet it must be conceded, that a very small portion of those citizens, for whose use it is professedly intended, can receive much benefit by it. The reason is obvious, the subject and the language are too strange, for common capacities fully to understand. Technical terms are not familiar to them. They cannot feel a deep interest in reading it. It is a dry obscure subject. It does not direct them in the cure of disease. To this their minds will be mostly inclined.

The class of readers, for whose use these volumes have been written, rarely incline to go into the study of ana-

tomical science, or plunge into the abstruse investigations of physiology.

Our author endeavors to excite a belief that *his*, is a new and greatly improved system of botanic medicine: But in what new discoveries are these claims to public confidence founded? The work contains some few additional articles in the remedial department. To these he adds a number of compounds. Some of these appear to us of very trivial importance. Most of them have been long known and liberally used by many physicians. The world abounds with recipes. Such things as are known to be really useful, and many that have not found their way into his book, nor head, we intend to publish, either in the Recorder, or in a separate work, as shall be thought most beneficial for our patrons and for the world. Many such things will be occasionally inserted in this work, as we pass along.

Mr. Howard tries hard to follow Thomson, as near as he possibly can, and evade the lash of the civil law. All who avail themselves of Thomson's plan of curing disease, and assume disguise, and sail under false colors are easily detected. Smith, Rodgers, Miles, Baker and Howard have all been compelled from the nature and circumstances of the case, to resort to this disingenuous course.— They talk much and effect but little. We speak with the utmost candor.— They may occasionally hit on some auxiliary remedy, suited to some peculiar form of disease, that may be a useful appendage to a course of medicine in such a peculiar circumstance, but to abrogate or improve Thomson's course of medicine, is to desert the new botanical cause, and turn our backs upon a reformation, that has restored the health and saved the lives of thousands. Of this fact we can never doubt, for we have it abundantly confirmed, by repeated testimony from Mr. Howard—yes, line upon line.— Reformers and innovators may be



multiplied, but we shall not abandon the enterprise. We are believers in the Thomsonian scheme of medical doctrines and practices, in relation to disease, and determine to pursue the resistless course that reason, facts, experience and observation point out, as paramount to the whole tribe of ambitious and daring adventurers in the paths of innovation. Thomsonianism is the basis of the plans adopted by these small fry in the ranks of modern scriblers and book-makers. They may flounce like a demagogue, but they are chained to a millstone, and can never break away, without huge pieces of the original granite hanging to their chain.

Elias Smith first pilfered his book from the instruction he received from Thomson. He has wantonly, wickedly and repeatedly insulted, vilified and abused his master. He appears to be a stranger to the nature of moral obligation, and basely spurns at all the laws of honor, justice and propriety. The statutes of the country and the precepts of heaven have not availed to restrain the madness of the prophet. Ingratitude to his master is blazoned in the whole tenor of his conduct. His followers are good at imitation. As Smith pilfered his book from Thomson, even so Howard, Baker & Co. have rifled the pages of Thomson and Smith; but, like the disasters that sometimes attend the midnight pilferer, they have greatly dispoiled their goods in their flight and zealous attempts at concealment. Howard has displayed more ingenuity than all the little band combined. But he, with all his pompous prescriptions, system of anatomy and pretty pictures, without THOMSON'S COURSE OF MEDICINE, is not precisely, or at least virtually pursued, without adopting the same principles of practice, would be unavailing for the removing of disease. Thomson's course, is of itself all-efficient in its operation, and has and will succeed, when and where all other prescriptions disappoint our hopes and often alarm our fears. All professions of any radical improvement in Thomson's botanical system of practice is preposterous. His system of practice is a unit. The unity of disease once admitted, his system is established; for it has stood the test of experience, survived the storms

of implacable persecutions, has made a surreptitious, evasive circumlocutory course indispensable, to every drivelling aspirant, who would supplant the venerable father of medical reformation or rival his dear-bought honest fame.

Howard without Thomson is not a reformer. As far as he attempts to adopt his system of practice and evade observation, he lurks along, a wanderer in the ranks of reformation; bewildered, like a cat in a strange garret. Howardism, without Thomsonism is only a tissue of recipes and prescriptions, gleaned from various and precarious sources. It is in fact a body, without the soul of reformation. Compared with the simplicity of our great reformer, it is complicated and tedious, and abounds with that uncertainty that has so long degraded the profession, and from which the New Guide is intended to effect a universal emancipation. His improvements, as he calls them, are all intended as a blow at the root of Thomson's reformation, to make way to bring his own books into market. The love of money lays at the root of this evil. The sale of his books brings gain to the author. Thomson's discoveries are every where becoming popular. The cry of reformation and improvement has an imposing influence, with such as have not examined into the merits of the cause. Howard without Thomson can be of little use to any body, more than a number of other works we could mention, that are much more easily obtained.

Those who purchase of him will have to pay dear for their whistle. Those who judge the value of a thing, by the bulk and weight of it, of the value of books, by the number of pages and the quantity of paper, type, ink and little pictures they contain, may be his mark for a trade. We value Thomson's New Guide: It is but a small book: The last edition has some valuable additions.—Like the everlasting gospel, though it be but a little book, yet it contains much in a small compass. Yea, it contains that, without the knowledge of which, all our medical knowledge would be of little use, more than the old antiquated forms of practice, that have for ages, poisoned and destroyed a large proportion of the human family.

N. B. An improvement made by Elias Smith, is that he calls Thomson's lobelia, the "plant of renown." The same thing, but a new name. This is the course of both Smith and Howard fairly exemplified.

Thomson's No. 6, which is a tincture of myrrh and cayenne; 1 pound of the former to two ounces of the latter, in 1 gallon of brandy or high wines: Howard alters it, and takes 12 ounces of myrrh, and puts in 1 ounce of the balsam of fir and  $\frac{1}{2}$  an ounce of nutmegs, to 1 gallon of liquor, and calls it a compound tincture of myrrh. Here is the same medicine, with a new name. The alteration is an unnatural combination, and has nothing of pharmaceutical ingenuity about it.

Thomson's nerve powder, which is simply the lady's slipper, acknowledged by all the faculty to be a valuable medicine, and one of the best nervines in the *materia medica*; Howard mixes a little ginseng and nutmegs, and calls it a *nervine compound*. His anti-spasmodic tincture, is Thomson's prescription a little modified, but the materials of the medicine are the same. The plagiarism of our copyist is notorious, but he gives a mangled imitation of the original. We have not any doubt, but that by his address, artifice and intrigue, he may coax many away from the simplicity there is in Thomson. His anti-dyspeptic, or restorative bitters, from the *recipe* of Dr. Wells, we give as a specimen of what he has done, also as a pledge of our fidelity to our patrons,—  
 "Take of African cayenne, 4 ounces; cloves, 4 oz.; cinnamon bark, 8 oz.; poplar bark, 1 lb.; golden seal, 1 lb.; bark of the bitter root, one pound; bark of the Bayberry root, 1 lb.; pleurisy root, 1 lb.; ginger root 1 lb.; sumach leaves, 8 oz.; hemlock bark, 8 oz.; loaf sugar, 8 lbs.—all made fine and sifted and well mixed; dose a heaping teaspoonful, in a gill of boiling water, three times a day, or take 1 ounce of the *powder*, three gills of gin, or of Lisbon wine, and one gill of water, and two ounces of loaf sugar, mix in a bottle, to be shaken before using." Whether this is to be taken all at one time, or what proportion at different times, Mr. Howard has not told us—but it agrees so well with the *hocus pocus* preparations of the ancient

Mithridate and venice treacle, we expect he laughed so heartily at his prescription, and the wild goose chase he should probably lead some hypochondriac valitudinarian, in trudging, sweating, delving and striving to hunt up all and singular the materials of his complicated farrago, and the strictness of his attention to the minutest circumstance in the preparation, that the reverie excited in his mind banished the powers of his recollection. He utterly forgot that little circumstance! "Alas master, it was borrowed!!"

### TO OUR PATRONS.

The patrons of the Thomsonian Recorder will notice that this work is published semi-monthly, at the moderate price of two dollars per year, that is for every 26 numbers, which will constitute a neat octavo volume of 424 pages. We feel ourselves involved in many agreeable obligations for the industry and zeal of our friends, in obtaining subscriptions to the work. We have been at much trouble and expense in getting our periodical afloat, but have succeeded so far, in obtaining patronage, beyond our most sanguine anticipations. Those individuals who obtain us ten responsible subscribers, shall be entitled to a copy gratis. We wish the subscription papers to be returned to us as soon as may be convenient, or the names of subscribers duly certified. The meeting of the National Thomsonian Convention, at Columbus, on the 17th of December next, will present a favorable opportunity for the returns to be made, and to transmit advance payments, wherever it may be found practicable. We thank our correspondents for their attentions. Any communication of merit, post paid, will be thankfully received. We are induced to make this suggestion, not from any penuriousness of disposition on our part, but because we think it more equitable that eight persons, equally interested with ourselves, should pay 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents a piece, than for us to pay a dollar. Many dollars have

been expended this way. Those who will reflect a moment and consider that an hundred cents make a dollar and ten dollars make an eagle, that the ocean is composed of drops and the universe of atoms, will never take offence at the intimation, which we have felt so much delicacy in presenting to our correspondents.

Adventurers for the premium Essay, on the unconstitutionality of the medical law, &c. will recollect that the 10th of December is fast approaching, when their communications must be forwarded, if not sent on before that time.

Agents will please to inform us what subscribers have failed in obtaining all their numbers, that they may be supplied to complete their sets.

Such as wish for and have not received a prospectus for this work, will please to give us word and they shall be immediately attended to.

N. B. Subscribers are requested to give their names and places of abode in a plain and legible hand. Those gentlemen who have been so kind as not to tax us with postage on their communications, will please accept of our grateful acknowledgements.

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# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

“ Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,”

“ And practice be combined with common sense.”

Vol. I. COLUMBUS, DEC. 1, 1832. No. 5.

## DESULTORY ESSAYS,

On medical practice, ancient and modern, embracing various incidents of the Thomsonian System, and illustrations of the importance of the Thomsonian practice, to the safety and happiness of community.

BY HONESTUS.

### ESSAY III.

I. Notwithstanding the numerous host of witnesses, and the astonishing extent of their testimony, which has spread or is spreading through every quarter of our vast republic, supporting the pretensions and justifying the claims of Dr. Samuel Thomson to universal patronage, in his new and useful discoveries in medicine; yet, strange as it may appear to persons of candor and honesty, there is no kind or degree of testimony will satisfy the mind, or silence the clamor of those individuals who find, or think they find, an interest in making opposition.

II. Among these, we notice a number, who have looked with an envious jealousy upon the emoluments likely to accrue to Doctor Thomson from the publication and disposal of his discoveries. A certain Elias Smith of Boston ranks high among these aspiring innovators. He being instructed by Dr. Thomson, afterwards made a daring attempt to rival him. Thomson having secured his discoveries by obtaining a patent, SMITH took the precaution, that his successors in plagiarism have also done. He published a work under the imposing title of the American Physician and Family Assistant, designed to supercede the discoveries and publications of Dr. Thomson.

III. After a careful examination of the work it appears to be a catchpenny production, of an unprincipled author, who has notoriously purloined another man's literary labors, with a

view to his own emolument. He prescribes the same remedy under a new name: for instance the emetic weed or lobelia of Thomson, he profanely, alluding to the figurative language of the prophet Ezekiel, concerning the advent of the Messiah, calls it the “plant of renown.”

IV. In several instances he has given the recipes of his preceptor just as he received them, only calling the same articles by other names to deceive the ignorant and gull the unwary. Where he feared to come in contact with patented privileges, fearing the lash of the law, he has adroitly varied the relative quantity of the different articles of a compound, or added some one article, that could not be of any consequence to any body but himself. The only advantage to himself has been to save appearances, and impose his impudent devices on the world as his own discoveries.

V. This is playing a high game, particularly for a christian gamester, a professed minister of the gospel. Dr. Thomson observes, in a work entitled, “A portrait of the conduct of Elias Smith,” p. 28, that these “cheap rights, and cheap medicine, will produce cheat practice”—speaking of the situation of a certain family in Boston, he saith, “They have had a pilfered right, a counterfeit practitioner, poisoned medicine, neglect of steam, and no cure.” “I would inform all concerned in such practice, that I despise any person who would palm such quackery on the public as being the Thomsonian system. I would inform Mr. Smith, and all those who have been duped by him, that whoever disapproves of *steaming* to remove disease, appears to me to be totally destitute of a knowledge of the cause of life and motion. If the people want Thomsonian cures, they must

employ Thomsonian doctors, and Thomsonian medicine, and pay Thomsonian prices; then they will not only have Thomsonian cures, but also health, at low prices."

VI. The most formidable class of opponents Dr. Thomson has had to encounter, have been very clamorous: These have been those medical sooth-sayers, scriblers, lecturers and law-protected regulars in the ranks of the faculty, who depend on their craft for their daily bread, and perceive that it is in eminent danger. They are not so blinded as not to perceive, that wherever the Thomsonian system has been fully proclaimed and fairly tested, it has been cordially received, and has successfully sustained its reputation: There the legalized faculty, though protected by legislative patronage, and every man on the alert, with his sword upon his thigh, has rapidly declined. They no longer engross the public confidence—they have become objects of fear and dread. The homage and adulation of former days is passing away "where *Lethe* flows, and the black river of oblivion rolls."

VII. Along with Smith and his co-adjutors, who have endeavored to acquire fame and property by Dr. Thomson's labors and discoveries, we might mention a certain CHARLES MILES, also, David Rodgers, and a certain Joseph Baker, and a school of small fry, endeavoring to struggle into notice. The two gentlemen we have last named, have both written and published something concerning disease, and the method of cure. Their publications are certainly below the dignity of formal criticism. In fact they are the most pitiful and contemptible works of the kind, that have ever degraded the English language. The reader cannot find any thing of any consequence, save what is awkwardly culled from Dr. Thomson. The most competent judges are at a loss which to consider the most disgusting, their vanity, their ignorance or impertinent assurance.

VIII. Mr. Howard has also saddled his poney, determined to ride himself into notice. His competency for the task of becoming a medical author, or the benevolence of his intentions, are not the subjects of our present inquiry. His work entitled "An improved system of botanic medicine," &c. does not appear to possess any intrinsic merit, to distinguish it from many other publications of the kind. Thomson's system of practice is the foundation on which he builds. He has added some few articles to his materia medica, with which Dr. Thomson and many of his adherents are already acquainted, and which with many others will undoubtedly be made known to the friendly botanic society. He sometimes quibbles with the Thomsonian theory—some times he gives the doctor deserved applause. His first volume treats on anatomy and physiology. These have little to do with the cure of disease. He has judiciously observed that "The most minute and perfect knowledge of the organs of the human system, and of the functions which they perform, cannot possibly give us an understanding of the means of removing, with medicine, a single disease."

IX. The common reader of course, can anticipate but little benefit from this part of his labored production. "Diseases," as he saith, "arise from causes, producing one common effect, viz. reduction of the living power, and injury of the animal machinery; and are, of course, to be treated by general remedies, acting upon general principles, unaided and uncontrolled by the sciences of anatomy, physiology, chemistry or pathology." Like our author, "we do not wish to be understood as passing a sweeping condemnation upon the study of those sciences, as utterly useless. We are only endeavoring to exhibit in its true colors, the popular prejudice which leads mankind into the erroneous belief, that these, and particularly anatomy, are



absolutely necessary to make a successful physician." "The study of those sciences, like the acquisition of all other general knowledge, has a tendency to expand the mind, and enlarge our views of things, to add to the intellectual pleasures of the *man*, but to the *physician*, the medical practitioner, in the treatment of disease, it surely gives nothing."

X. In all ordinary occurrences this sentiment is strictly true. With this accords the language of Thomson:—"Those medicines," saith the doctor, "that will open obstruction, promote perspiration and restore digestion, are suited to every patient, whatever form the disease assumes, and are universally applicable." The most accurate knowledge of anatomy, of all the parts and functions of the human body, can never confer the knowledge of a single medicine to relieve a pain, remove a fever, or restore the strength of a debilitated patient.

XI. It is high time for the arrogant pretensions of all who seek their own profit, mauger all candor, integrity and good faith, should be dismantled of the slimpy guise of those specious pretensions, that bewilder the undiscerning, and lead multitudes in the paths of mistaken zeal, in pursuit of shadows.

XII. Truth is simple. The most useful truths are the most easy to obtain. It is the prerogative of truth to detect and expose error and falsehood on every hand. The impostor shrinks from its searching influence and trembles at its peerless tribunal. The impostor studies concealment, abounds in endless egotisms—has recourse to many artful and evasive turns, for he has need of such means of security:—The medical impostor veils himself in mystery, blows the trumpet of self-admiration, and boasts of his achievements: greedy of filthy lucre, ambitious of undeserved applause, he will drive furiously. If he can but evade the lash of the law, or take protection beneath the shadow of its wing, no

moral consideration can retard his extravagant career.

XIII. Impostors of a higher grade, assume peculiar dignity to themselves; ostensibly ranking as they often do, with men of eminence in the profession. They have a smattering of what might be termed a medical education: They have attended a course of college lectures: They have acquired an imperfect knowledge of the technical names of half the bones in a man's body—perhaps they know which side of a man his liver is situated, and of course, no doubt, that having a knowledge of the local position of his liver, he must know as soon as he sees a medicine, though at the distance of *twenty* yards, whether it will puke, purge or sweat. He must know that lobelia and No. 6, will kill any man, and that mercury, ratsbane and opium are innocent, harmless and excellent medicine, when administered by their wise hands.

XIV. Such impostors as these delight to veil themselves in mysterious unintelligible language. In this way they often abuse the good sense, and insult the feelings of a patient, whose interest it is to understand minutely, every word. Can such puny philosophers imagine that they understand the connection between causes and effects, any better than others, merely because they can make out a latin prescription? or that a medicine will produce a more salutary operation, by giving it a technical name, known only to the profession?

XV. Among the more enlightened and intelligent of the faculty, it is to be lamented, that so much of the garb of quackery should be worn. Behold the doctor at the bed-side of the sick; He prescribes a new mixture of old remedies, or an old remedy with a new name. Why all this management? Why this pompous parade and wise concealment? In many cases the reason is obvious. It is really wisdom to conceal the truth, or otherwise aban-

don the patient: Because, if the patient knew the medicine he would not touch it. The direful consequences attendant on his mineral poisons have been too often demonstrated, for any reasonable man, with his eyes open, to venture on such desperate means.

XVI. Reader pause and consider. Take these deleterious articles from the druggist's shop, and your regular practitioners, as they are commonly denominated, the class of men with which a doctor ridden community is saddled, would suddenly abandon their practice, & relinquish this their learned profession—not a man would stand to his post. Take away the mineral and vegetable poisons, that contain the principles of death inherent in their nature, and in what prescription would they repose any confidence. Remove these from the vocabulary of medicine, and what would be the result? Do we not hear them cry out, “ye have taken away my gods, and what have I left!!!”

XVII. The good physician must always be intent on the welfare of his patient, and cannot conscientiously urge upon his patient, a remedy he would be unwilling to swallow himself, in case of an exchange of circumstances.

XVIII. The Thomsonian practitioner is not afraid of his own medicine: We may rest assured that he is as intent on the welfare of his patient, as the graduated quack, or even the most scientific physician. He is open, candid and explicit—He has not a thousand remedies—his medicines are few, innocent, effectual in supporting the powers of life against the ravages of disease. The number of his medicines however, is nearly equal to the number of potent remedies, viz. the articles of reliance in common use by the regular faculty. The names of his remedies are all in plain English, easy to be understood. The articles are indigenous, the production of our own country. They will puke, purge, sweat

and break down obstructions, as certainly, prescribed in our maternal tongue, as though the whole force of the most abstruse, jaw-cracking technicalities of a medical university, were put in requisition for the occasion. I prefer a living language for a life exciting medicine. The dead languages are best suited to medicines that naturally destroy the powers of life. To administer a puke in a plain English prescription, will confirm its operation as effectually, as could be done by the magic influence of all the dead languages combined; making however, suitable allowance for the faith, conceit, prejudice and superstition of the patient.

XIX. The cause of our venerable reformer progresses with enormous strides. The efficacy of his system is not only confirmed and established by the local testimony of thousands whose particular cases have never been formerly reported: But Mr. Howard stands conspicuous among a cloud of witnesses. He has devoted sixty octavo pages in giving details of remarkable cures performed by Thomsonian remedies, in order to prove the superiority of his own system and the importance of his improvements, many of which were not conceived in his inventive fancy, and never promulgated until years had rolled away, after the cures were effected—The cures were performed by Thomsonianism reduced to practice—By Thomson's prescriptions and not by any device, contrivance, invention or improvement made by Mr. Howard. How preposterous his pretensions! How deceptive his course! Alas, for the frailty of human nature!

## REVIEW

OF A RECENT PUBLICATION IN N. YORK,  
ENTITLED

“Remarks on the pernicious effects and fatal consequences of BLOOD-LETTING; designed by the author for the prolongation of the lives

of his fellow beings.—By I. F. Daniel Lobstein, M. D.”—A *pamphlet*.

Dr. Lobstein is one of the “Medical Faculty of Paris; late physician to the Military Hospitals and army of France; Professor of Surgery and Midwifery; Member of the Medical Societies of Philadelphia, of the city and county of New-York, of Massachusetts, of Maryland, of Lexington, (Ky.) of New Orleans, of Pittsburg, (Pa.) of many others of Europe, and of several learned and benevolent societies of the United States; author of several works upon Medical and Literary subjects; Physician and Practitioner in Midwifery in New-York.”

This distinguished, learned and titled individual, in the work, of which the reader is here presented with the title page, has offered some remarks, that demand the attention of all who feel an interest in their personal well-being, or of the welfare of their fellow beings. We would willingly transcribe the whole work to the pages of the Recorder, but its length precludes us from the privilege.

We will not detain the reader a single moment, from hearing the testimony of one, whose literary fame and scientific attainments have special claim to his attention. Coming from one of the regular faculty, known and distinguished, by his elevation, on the high standard of medical eminence, the established collegiate standard in Europe and America, it cannot be called a Thomsonian delusion, the result of ignorance and vulgar credulity.

“A long time,” saith Dr. Lobstein, “has elapsed, since I determined to publish my remarks on the pernicious effects of bleeding, which, not only during that time, but especially at present, is considered as almost an universal remedy, and frequently resorted to, as a restorative in the slightest indisposition; notwithstanding the direful consequences attendant on such practice, it continues to be the main pillar of the medical profession.” His next

remark is pointed, pithy and impressive. Who that reads it, and feels the weightiness of its truth, will not take an alarm? Who will not feel constrained to alarm others? Well may our ears tingle, and our hearts agonize within us, to hear his bold assertion, and be compelled to know and acknowledge the fact. “Were bleeding and mercury totally prohibited, a great many physicians would find themselves in the inextricable mazes of a sad dilemma: their time easily disposed of.”

Our regret and anxiety is not for the faculty, who might as readily have recourse to some other honest and honorable employment, as their equally intelligent and respectable neighbors. When reduced to the plebian ranks from want of professional business, like Paul, in his afflictions, resort to honest industry; Let their own hands contribute to their necessities.

Our anguish and alarm is for the safety, the health and lives of our fellow men. “It is astonishing,” says Dr. Lobstein, “to find, that so many persons, and more so, to find so many physicians have fallen into this extravagance. Blood, as the most precious matter *for life*, is lavishly squandered where there is no necessity; yes, often *without* knowing for what purport.”

From these remarks, the discerning reader will see clearly, that our apprehensions of danger, are not without foundation. That we do not cry fire, to frighten people, and laugh at fears wantonly excited. The evil of which we complain has a real existence. It calls loudly for the strong resistless arm of public opinion to place an inviolable veto upon their mal-practice.

The doctor proceeds, “my remarks shall, therefore, *convince* my fellow citizens, that so far from blood-letting being beneficial, it is productive of the most serious and fatal effects. Should I contribute, by my remarks, to save *more* lives in future, and arrest this

cruel practice, I would feel that gratification, which arises from the consciousness of having performed a good act."

"How much is it to be regretted, that such an awful scourge of humanity should exist!" No doubt but that the regular faculty have contributed more by their imprudent use of the lancet during the last fifty years, to destroy mankind than all the wars of Europe. Our author proceeds, "During my residence of fourteen years past, in this happy country of liberty and independence, I am bound to say, that in all my practice of twenty seven years as a Physician, never have I seen in any part of Europe, such extravagance of blood-letting, as I have seen in this country, and their practice sanctioned and confirmed by the opinions of many physicians."

We have long been convinced, that there was not a place on earth where there was such a wanton profusion, such a lavish voluntary loss of human blood, by the regular faculty, as in the United States. We cannot forbear to exclaim with our author, "how many thousands of our fellow citizens are sent to an untimely grave! How many families deprived of their amiable children! How many husbands deprived of their lovely wives! How many wives of their dear husbands, who have fallen victims to this great extravagance of bleeding: the same may be said of mercury."

"We no longer count the loss of blood, (by blood-letting,) by *ounces*, but by *pounds*! Each headache, each indigestion, each indisposition, is, among *many* physicians, quite a sufficient pretence to say, "*you must be bled!*" It seems entirely forgotten, that blood-letting, however the greatest, is likewise thereby the most dangerous of all remedies, and that it sometimes introduces a loss, which never more can be repaired."

Page 5th. The writer proceeds: "*In the blood is the human life*; in the

blood is placed the strength of the whole organic life,—without blood, there is no heat, no motion of the heart; nor is there any *feeling*, or general motion of the system. Yes, take away from the brain the blood, and the self-cogitative powers will be instantly extinguished. *Without* blood there is not any germination, vegetation, or function of life possible."

Warmth and motion if they do not constitute life, certainly constitute the evidence of its existence—we mean animal life. When all warmth is extinct and all motion ceases, we say of all animal bodies, so circumstanced, they are dead. If any should say that life is only an accident, or contingency, a mere property, quality or circumstance of being, having no conceivable existence of itself—no positive, specific being. We would say, where the blood is exhausted, animal life is extinct, and where it is not exhausted, where there is neither warmth nor motion, there life is extinct. When our author says, "in the blood is the human life," we understand that warmth and motion in the blood, produces a certain state or circumstance of being, that constitutes the man a living animal, or a being whose blood is warm and moving. A philosopher has observed, that, "*fire, light and air, are the breath of life.*" A gentleman whose talents we heartily respect and often admire, has this remark on the subject, "the circulation of the blood is from internal heat, and the external air pressing into the lungs, they serve as a pump to draw the blood from the heart, and the air keeps this pump in motion."

The air is to the body, what the weight is to a clock, and the heart with its valves, as a pendulum to regulate its motions." Dr. Lobstein observes, page 5th, "He who takes away too much blood, or who takes it too often from his patients, takes away, not an organ of life, but a part of life itself."

While remarking on this point, we are happy to quote the language of

Robinson, as highly apposite: "In confirmation of philosophers and poets, and anatomists, the most acute, profound and penetrating; in confirmation of experiments and of facts, in the *living process of the animated being*, from the first germ of the finished system; we shall add the high authority of the living oracles:" "For the life is the blood thereof."

We shall give only a few brief quotations more: "If we diminish the strength by too much blood-letting, we also take away the means of recovery, and we make thus, the disease a malady, which, devoid of such treatment, would become either harmless or beneficial."

Again, "The most simple fevers, by too much bleeding, become nervous and putrid fevers, of which I can attest many such instances."

"I have seen, during my residence of nine years in Philadelphia, many ladies with nervous affections, and of such, four, highly respectable ladies, whose physician I had the honor to be: Their former physician, in all slight indispositions, ordered them to be bled, whereby they became more and more nervous. They had no nervous attacks when I stopped the bleeding, and they were well when I left the city of Philadelphia. I treated in a similar manner, a very respectable lady in Philadelphia, who was attacked with a very severe pleurisy, and I saved her without bleeding, which, to many in that city, was very astonishing. She is highly respected for her merit, and is of one of the most distinguished families in Philadelphia."

#### SIR WALTER SCOTT.

A star of the first magnitude is setting in the literary horizon. The mighty magician, who has called up so many delightful pageants, has laid aside his wand of power, and drawn around him the mantle of silence, to lie down in his last slumber. No one,

in an equal space of time, has delighted more hearts, with a less production of evil. No writer may pass from the earth with a brighter fame and a more unsullied regret. As a narrative poet, he has rarely been excelled;—no poems in the English language, of their kind, can rival the Lay of the Last Minstrel and the Rokeby: as a prose writer, he stands alone, the Shakespeare of Romance. Carvantes, Le Sage and Smollet, have had a longer, but not a more certain or a brighter fame. His lavish hand has scattered the pearls of delight for thousands in both continents—his poetry has delighted without corrupting, and his romance amused without misleading the heart. His strains have afforded equal delight to the inmates of the cottages, to "lords and ladies gay." Other bards have their peculiar admirers, but Scott is the poet of all hearts. What Shakespeare is in the drama, Scott is in Romance. The fame of both is universal, with this difference—but while Shakespeare is most praised, Scott will be most read. He passes from the earth but like the setting sun, his glory remains. His day has been long and pleasant, but now

The Minstrel is infirm and old ;

his harp strings sound no more, when touched by his aged fingers: and with Ossian he may say, "The shadows gather round Balclutha." His departure will call forth the sigh of the maiden, and the regret of the student—the tears of learning will be shed thick and fast over his honored grave, and tones of bards will be heard, pealing requiems of peace. The hills and the streams will lament—for, to use his own language—

Call it not vain—they do not err,  
Who say that when the poet dies,  
Mute Nature mourns her worshiper,  
And celebrates his obsequies.

*Boston Traveller.*



## WOMAN.

BY A YOUNG MAN.

Female loveliness cannot be clothed in a more pleasing garb than that of knowledge. A female thus arrayed is one of the most interesting objects of creation. Every eye rests upon her with pleasure: the learned and wise, the young and the aged of the opposite sex delight in her society, and affix to her character respect and veneration. Ignorance and folly stand reprov'd in her presence, and vice in his career shrinks abashed at her gaze. She moves, the joy, the delight, the pride of the domestic circle; she excites the praise—the admiration of the world. A female thus armed, thus equipped, is prepared to encounter every trial which this uncertain state may bring—to rise with proper elevation to the pinnacle of fortune or sink with becoming fortitude into the abyss of poverty; to attain with a cheerful serenity, the heights of bliss, or endure with patient firmness the depths of woe.

Copy of a letter from Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, formerly Lecturer on the theory and practice of Physic, in Cambridge University, to the late Samuel L. Mitchell, of New-York.

Cambridge, Dec. 19, 1825.

My Dear Sir,

Mr. alias Doct. Samuel Thomson, who has the honor of introducing the valuable *Lobelia* to use, and fully proved its efficacy and safety, will deliver you this. He has cured and relieved many of disorders, which others could not, without being a regular diplomatized physician, and dared to be a republican in a hot bed of federalism: for which he has been shamefully ill-treated, even to persecution.

I have aided and assisted Thomson from a firm belief that his novel practice has been beneficial to numbers, and that it may be placed among improvements. If he be a quack, he is

a quack *suigeneris*, for he proclaims his mode and means. Had John Hunter, whom I well knew, been born and bred where Samuel Thomson was, he would have been just such another man; and had S. T. been thrown into the same society and associations as J. H. he would, in my opinion, have been his equal, with probably a wider range of thought; but both men of talents, and originality of thought.

I am, indeed, so disgusted with learned quackery, that I take some interest in honest, humane and strong-minded empiricism; for it has done more for our art, in all ages and in all countries, than all the universities since the time of Charlemagne. Where, for goodness sake, did Hippocrates study?—air, earth and water—man, and his kindred vegetable—disease and death, and all casualties and concomitants of humanity, were the pages he studied—every thing that surrounds and nourishes us, were the objects of his attention and study. In a word, he read diligently and sagaciously the *Great Book of Nature*, as Thomson has, instead of the little books of man.

How came your Legislature to pass so unconstitutional an act as that called the *anti-quack* law?—such as the parliament of England would hardly have ventured on?—for *who will define quackery?* Were I sufficiently acquainted with your excellent Governor Clinton, I would write to him on the subject. You New-Yorkers are half a century behind us in *theological science*, but your quack bill looks as if you halted also in physic.

By what I have seen and learnt of Mr. Thomson I wish him success, and the notice of the eminent and the liberal in the profession, and with this view I give him this rapidly-written letter to Dr. Mitchell, and am with an high degree of esteem and respect,

His steady friend,

BENJ. WATERHOUSE.

**THE RECORDER.****COLUMBUS:**

Saturday, Dec. 1, 1828.

**THOMSONIAN SYSTEM.**

The subjoined extract is from a communication made to the Cincinnati Gazette, and republished in the National Enquirer, written by Horton Howard, when he was agent for Dr. Thomson; 1828.

Having spent much time, in early life, in the perusal of books, treating of the prevention and cure of diseases, I have often been advised to give up my time to the practice of physic; but was not able to reconcile the idea of acquiring a livelihood by a practice, which, with all the light that science has cast upon it, is, in the most skilful hands, often attended with danger, and frequently proves fatal. I have, however, until I was somewhat advanced in age, practised considerably amongst my neighbors and friends, without having received, or wishing to receive, any pecuniary compensation for this kind of service.

Perhaps, no person has more sincerely despised the *Thomsonian System* than myself. But I became convinced that the reports, and publications, which caused those prejudices, were erroneous, and, from the most unequivocal and repeated evidences of its good effect on myself and many others, I became convinced that it was not only *safe*, but much more efficacious than any practice which I had reason to believe was known to the Faculty in Europe or America; and all the knowledge and experience I have since had, confirmed me in this belief.

It may safely be predicted, that unprincipled and vicious enemies of this practice, with all their pretended knowledge of it, will continue to prey on the vitals of society. And I am

well assured, that if each of those who are as full of honest prejudices against this system as I have been, had all that has been written by Doct. Thomson or any other person on this subject, it would be of but little or no value, without the verbal instructions, and practical demonstration which is necessary to a right understanding of it. And yet, *with these* advantages, it is easily understood, and may be practised by persons of common capacities with *safety* and *success*; and it should be known and practised by every family possessing a common share of *common sense*.

There is good reason to believe, that the publishers of periodical works in this city, and other places, will promote the best interests of society, by giving as liberal publicity to this communication as some of them have to articles designed to bring into disrepute the best means, now extant, for the prevention and cure of diseases.

**HORTON HOWARD.**

Cincinnati, April 25, 1828.

**SOMETHING OLD BUT INTERESTING.**

The following items of intelligence appeared first in the Albany Daily Advertiser, and were transmitted by Mr. Howard into the National Enquirer, published at Columbus, 1828. It may serve to cast light in the pathway of those legislators who still aspire to establish medical practice by law. These laws have originated in the United States. They had no existence in the civilized world until they were devised to put down the botanical practice of Dr. Samuel Thomson. All these laws are virtually *ex post facto*. Wherever the fame of his cures has spread, in the state of New-York or elsewhere, there these legal devices have been conjured into being, as the last hope of the despairing regular faculty. Thus they

have aspired to sustain by law a standing and privilege in society, to which the merit of their genuine reputation could not give them any pretensions. It is hoped these scraps and hints of former times may be read with impartiality and deep attention. Facts are stubborn things and those who bite at files ought to have strong teeth.

#### THOMSONIAN SYSTEM.

We pretend to no knowledge of the virtues of this much talked of system of medicine. The opinions of Messrs. Dimmick, Edgerton and Metcalf, are very favorable, and the high respectability of their characters entitles them to an attentive perusal. So much feeling has been excited on this subject in some of the northern towns, as we are told, politics are merged in the question of *Steam* and *Anti-steam*.

— Alb.D.Adv.

#### A CARD.

The subscriber for himself, and in behalf of the Friendly Botanic Society, in the state of New-York tenders his sincere thanks to the majority of the honorable committee, Messrs. Dimmick, Edgerton and Metcalf, for their indefatigable exertions and candor in their patient investigation of the Thomsonian system of Practice in behalf of the state, and for furnishing him with their written opinion for publication. And also, his thanks are due to a great number of individuals, in this city, as well as from various parts of the state, for their kindness in voluntarily appearing before the committee and testifying in relation to the value, safety and success of the said system of practice. To Doctors Mitchell and Green, the minority of the committee, I feel myself under no obligations, as they have, among other erroneous statements, falsely accused us of using one of *their own* most prominent medicines, viz: Arsenic,\* (see Dr. Thatch-

\* Doct. Wm. Warner, studied medicine in the state of Massachusetts, and received his diploma agreeable to the

er's Dispensatory page, 299 to 301, an instance of the kind I will challenge them to produce, with any of the Thomsonian practitioners or that of their using any other deleterious article, whether mineral or vegetable, if they follow their system of practice. Our grateful thanks are also due to the State Medical Society and its various auxiliary branches for their kindness (*although unintentionally*) in establishing the Thomsonian system far more permanent than it has ever been before in this state; may they persevere and prosper in like manner with all their undertakings in relation to us.

The subscriber takes this method to inform his friends and the public, that in consequence of the mass of business on the calender, prior to his report, it has been utterly impossible to reach it this session.

JOHN THOMSON.

Albany, April, 1828.

Albany, April 19th, 1828.

Sir—In compliance with your request, and with a wish to do justice to the public in relation to the effects of what is called the "Thomsonian system of practice" on the community, I feel myself justified in saying, that having been one of a committee of five, appointed by the Assembly of the state of New York, to inquire into and report to that house on that subject, I have made particular examination so far as

laws of said state. For two or three years past, he has practiced in this city, and last fall being called to attend John Hogle, who was slightly indisposed, he administered to him some of his medicine, and in a few hours Hogle died; and on opening the body Arsenic was found in a saline state in his stomach, upon which Warner was arrested, tried and sentenced to solitary confinement in the Albany county gaol for three years, where he is now expiating his crime, because he had not received his diploma in this state, and of course could not kill agreeable to its laws.

I could find time and opportunity, during three or four weeks, in the city of Albany. But my enquiries have not only extended to the examination of various individuals, from different parts of this state where that system is in use, but have also examined about twenty-five families, or the heads thereof, in the city of Albany where considerable use seems to have been made of that method of curing diseases. I am sensible, that from education, from habits of thinking, and from my intimate connection with regular physicians, I approached that examination with strong prejudices against every species of *quackery* and *empiricism*.— But of *this species of quackery*, I had no knowledge before. I first read Dr. Thomson's certificates of great cures, with all that indifference which men generally do when they expect imposition or deception is about to be played off upon them. On examination however, of all or nearly all the cases certified, as having taken place in the city of Albany within a few months, in the latter part of the year 1824, and the fore part of the year 1825, I found them fully supported by statements made by the respective families or heads thereof; I also found many *particulars* of those cases stated, which in my opinion, adds much to the importance and striking features of them, which do not appear in the short statements made of them in those certificates. I also endeavored if possible, by inquiry of various individuals, as well of the enemies of the system as the friends, and those who were indifferent on the subject, what cases, if any existed, of injurious effects arising from its use; and although I found some three or four, in which dark surmises and suspicions seemed to have been set afloat in community, in every case which I was able to trace, I did trace, by examination of the friends of the persons thus supposed to have been injured by, or fallen victims to such

practice; and could have no reason to believe or suspect that any injury had been done to the patient, but more or less relief thereby gained. It is also due to Dr. Thomson to say, that in every case, wherein suspicions have been indulged, it appeared the patient had been pronounced by the regular physicians incurable; and that such opinions had been given in nearly all the cases, amounting to some forty or fifty, of which I heard detailed the particulars; and in some of which, to use the language attributed to the regular physicians, "it was as impossible to restore them to health, as it was to create a new world." After such an examination and maturely reflecting thereon, I think it neither rash nor indiscreet to say, that judging from the effects of his practice in the city of Albany, however much regular physicians may, as I am sure they will, carp at the expression, and speaking after the manner of men, or if you please, according to human reasoning, it has snatched ten *from the grave*, where it has hastened one to it.

What may be its particular effects in other parts of the state, or when not administered by Dr. Thomson himself, I am unable to state. The persons thus examined appear respectable, intelligent and candid, and generally expressed their great opposition to, and want of confidence in Dr. Thomson's practice before they had tried it, and were induced to make the trial in consequence of the *desperate* nature of their cases, and with a belief or hope that no *injury* could be done thereby. With your theory or principles, I had little to do; the *effects* of your practice was the principle thing sought for by me, as by your fruits I was resolved to judge you, and however much may be the obloquy, which the declaration of a favorable opinion of your practice may call forth from the learned, not only against *quacks*, but the *supporters of quacks*, I freely take upon

myself the responsibility of subscribing to the above.

Your obedient servant,

A. DIMMICK,

Member of Assembly.

P. S. Most of the individuals thus examined, had family rights, upon which they placed a very high value; and one gentleman, whose respectability and candor are very high in public estimation, declared he would not be deprived of the knowledge for 1000 dollars. I also examined two gentlemen from Nantucket, who spoke most distinctly of the respectability and credibility of the persons, whose signatures appear attached to Dr. T.'s certificates, of his practice in that place.

A. D.

I concur in the above, having been chairman of the committee before whom the examinations were had.

BELA EDGERTON,

Member of Assembly.

I certify that I was one of a committee of five appointed by the Assembly of the state of New York, to investigate the effects of the Thomsonian system of practice on the public. And that it appears by the petitions and other papers presented and referred to said committee, as well as from the testimony of many respectable individuals, resident in the city of Albany, who attended the committee personally, that the practice of Dr. Thomson had in a great many instances, proved highly beneficial, and there was no evidence submitted to show his practice had proved deleterious in any case.

A. METCALF.

Albany, April 11, 1828.

### THE ECLECTIC.

According to DRYDEN, an Eclectic denoted one of those ancient philosophers, who, without attaching themselves to any particular sect, took from any what they judged good. Hence, Webster, our renowned countryman, gives this definition:—*Eclectic*, a phi-

losopher who selected from the various systems such opinions and principles as he judged to be sound and rational. Eclectic is the running title of a periodical writer, whose essays have been collected and published under the *general title* of "a vindication of the Thomsonian system of the practice of medicine on botanical principles, as originated by Samuel Thomson, and continued by his coadjutors." The title, Eclectic, is indicative of the native independence of the writer's mind—of his determination to be guided by the invincible laws of truth and justice, without any servile submission to vulgar superstition, popular prejudice, erroneous education and long established habits of thinking, even among the literati. We shall only detain the reader long enough to assure him that the venerable author of this interesting little work, is the learned and long respected Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, for many years lecturer on the theory and practice of physic, in Cambridge University. Those who read this work and compare the sentiments of the erudite and much esteemed writer, may learn how to appreciate the opinions of some of our swaggering quacks, who pompously essay to ridicule Dr. Thomson and the steam practice, and foolishly censure and wantonly condemn what they have never honestly enquired into, and ingenuously attempted fairly to understand. The testimony of Dr. Waterhouse is a voluntary contribution to the cause of truth and civil liberty, which a learned coalition have long endeavored to trample with impunity beneath their feet. The testimony of this medical patriarch, outweighs volumes of those quackish squibs and puns that are daily showered upon the advocates of Dr.



Thomson. Thanks to kind heaven the great and good cause is spreading, and truth begins every where to triumph over the fell demon of arrogant opposition.

### THE ECLECTIC—No. 1.

SAMUEL THOMSON,

*"Botanist," and patented practitioner of Medicine.*

Messrs. Editors,

I have lately read with considerable interest and some surprise, a little volume of nearly 200 pages, entitled, "A Narrative of the Life and Medical Discoveries of SAMUEL THOMSON, containing an account of his system of practice, and the MANNER of curing disease, with VEGETABLE medicines, upon a plan entirely new;" to which is added his "*New Guide to Health*, containing the PRINCIPLES upon which the system is founded."

While reading the book, I said to those who recommended it to my perusal, this man is no "QUACK." He narrates his medical discoveries, gives an account of his system of practice, together with his manner of curing diseases, upon a plan confessedly new; to which he adds the principles on which his new system is founded. He who does this is no *Charlatan*, but by uniting theory to his practice, however erroneous the theory, merits attention. With these ideas of the cultivation and promulgation of human knowledge, I read the narrative of Samuel Thomson, and soon perceived that he was a man of good capacity, persevering temper and benevolent disposition; and that he acquired his knowledge of the hitherto unknown virtues of certain plants by experiments, first on himself, then on those about him. In the course of twenty or thirty years, he arranged his experimental knowledge into a system, as did the father of Physic before him, however imperfect; and having done this to the best of his power (for he had no literary education) he published the result of his experience, labor and thoughts to the world, for them to judge of it, and of him.

AUTO-BIOGRAPHY, is a profitable species of writing to the world, but dan-

gerous to the writer himself, especially if he be a professional man or a political partisan, before he can gain credit for one honorable motive, every sinister object that can be imagined will be laid to his account. Who among his competitors will exercise that impartiality on hearing his story, which they require of him in relating it?—Narrow minded jealousy will pervert every thing. We may allow for a little high coloring in controversy with rivals, very few physicians or divines are free from it; but if Samuel Thomson in the narrative of his life has not turned aside from facts, he has been unjustly treated, and, in some instances, most cruelly persecuted. He has given names, dates, places and events, and spoken of judges, juries, sheriffs, jailors and witnesses, in a style so plain as to exclude all equivocation; and the same of a noted preacher. If what he has said of them be false, he ought to be exposed and publicly punished; if true, he merits protection. His discoveries are valuable or insignificant, his practice a nuisance or a benefit, his writings useful or a tassel of lies and calumnies, his *Patent* honorable or a disgrace to our government; and it is not beneath the dignity of any Physician, Divine, or Philosopher, to inquire into the truth of a series of experiments published with so much confidence, and purporting to be for the benefit of mankind.

I have no doubt but that Samuel Thomson has added a very valuable article to our *Materia Medica*, and that he has again and again relieved the sick where others have failed. From all that I can collect, I am induced to believe that he is not an avaricious man, but one who is more flattered by his success in relieving the sick than in receiving their money. This at least entitles him to a fair and patient hearing. It is possible he may have deceived himself; but it does not appear that he has laid himself out, like a conjurer, to deceive others. If this man has devoted the greater part of his life, to the relief of his fellow men, his labors claim respect and his errors our indulgence; for who of us are free from them? Let the unprejudiced man who reads his narrative and guide to health,

judge for himself; and should he boggle at his theory of *heat* and *cold*, let him remember that Thomson, without knowing it, has adopted a theory of *GALEN'S*; and his idea of the preserving power of nature, the curer of diseases and preserver of life, appears to be the same as that acknowledged by *HIPPOCRATES*; but the writer could not express it in Greek.

Thomson is not a *Quack*, if by quack we mean a vain, artful, tricking practitioner in physic. He is an *Experimenter* who accumulates knowledge by his *own experience*. There was a sect among the ancients who assumed that appellation, to distinguish themselves from *Dogmatists*, who instead of experience taught dogmas. If Samuel Thomson be a quack, he is a quack *suigeneris*, for being an enemy to concealment, he tells all he knows, in as plain a manner as he possibly can, and leaves you to form your own judgment; provided you divest yourself of the *fashion* of this world in physic, which, with priestcraft, is fast passing away.

Read his book, men of New England, and after making due allowance for his condition and situation and provocations, judge whether such a man merits the *persecution* he has endured, and the treatment he has met with.

#### AN ECLECTIC.

Mr. Howard, in the National Enquirer of the 8th of August, 1827, has given the following editorial remarks:\*\*\*

The friends of the Thomsonian system of the practice of medicine will be pleased to learn, that the health of the doctor has recently enabled him to pay us another visit; which, with his preceeding one, has been highly interesting and instructing to us.—We should have announced his arrival soon after he came, but he was just recovering from a severe indisposition, caused by a fall, & wished to avoid much company; he is, however, finally recovered, and has taken his departure for Boston.

We are now convinced, that with all the advantage which we could derive from his books, and all the instruction and demonstration which his agents (whose honesty he had not proved) could

give, we were comparatively, but children in the knowledge of his system and practice, and that many valuable medicines were unknown to us. It was found soon after the Doctor had digested his plan and reduced his system to practice, that the faithlessness of many of those whom he employed, would probably, induce them through carelessness, or for dishonest purposes, to expose his books to others who were not disposed to procure them in an honest manner, or to use them for honorable purposes. These considerations induced him, in the compilation of them to withhold much important information, which was necessary to be known, in order to a full understanding of his principles and practice. He decided that these instructions should be verbally given. He knew that without these, and the repeated demonstrations which are absolutely necessary to be given by a well informed and experienced practitioner, his books would, comparatively, be of little value; and without which the immense advantages to be derived from a thorough knowledge of his system and practice, remain, in a great degree, concealed. This verbal instruction and demonstration he has given sparingly to his agents until he has had time to ascertain whether they are capable and honest.

This accounts for his reserve amongst strangers; and for the imperfect knowledge of his system, which his former agents, (at least such of them as we have been acquainted with,) in the western country, have acquired. Being delighted with the prospect of making money by what they supposed to be all the instructions he could give; and being regardless of their benefactor, they seem to have been disposed to exert their skill and craft to injure the man, to whom the just tribute of gratitude & esteem, we are persuaded, will be awarded by future generations, when all his enemies shall have long been forgotten.

After consenting, with much reluctance, last winter, to accept the agency of his medical concerns, and he being more than usually inspired with confidence that he should receive justice at our hands, he verbally communicated to us a considerable additional stock of

useful knowledge; and finding, as we suppose, in the course of his subsequent visit, that this confidence had not been misplaced, he has, both by precept and by actual demonstration, astonished us with his profound knowledge of the principles which govern his practice; and in a variety of difficult cases, in both sexes, has far exceeded our former knowledge. His last, and fourth visit, has been peculiarly instructive and interesting with regard to the management of female complaints. We most sincerely congratulate our friends on this vast accession of useful knowledge and we hereby assure the members of the Friendly Botanic Society that we will cheerfully impart to them, as opportunities may be afforded, such portions or all of this additional stock of knowledge, as we believe they have been previously qualified to receive, and that may with prudence and propriety be communicated to them.

After such strong expressions and unequivocal declarations, in relation to the excellency and superiority of Dr. Thomson's system of medical practice, and such unreserved explicit acknowledgements of the advantages derived from his instructions, to what conclusion can we arrive? Here is a man of reading and genius, addicted in early life to medical studies—a man who has read Thomson's Narrative and New Guide, has received much instruction by a more intimate acquaintance and oral information, we hear the gentle cadence of his hearty concession falling on our ear—"we are now convinced," saith Howard, "that with all the advantages which we could derive from his books, and all the instruction and demonstration which his agents (whose honesty he had not proved) could give, we were comparatively, *but children* in the knowledge of his system and practice and that many valuable medicines were unknown to us." In conclusion the reader will notice he boasts of a vast accession of useful knowledge.—

Mr Howard now attempts to evade the charge of borrowing his improved system of botanic medicine from Thomson, contends that he is more a debtor to Elias Smith, whom he never saw—From whom he never had opportunity to obtain such oral instructions as he here so highly appreciates. After such an accession of knowledge—such peculiarly instructive and interesting information as he received—what a prodigiously elevated character must Horton Howard be, to make such new, wonderful and unprecedented discoveries as to eclipse the glory of his master and leave all the gazing, wondering sons of science, lagging far behind.—Friend Howard, remember thine own words, "Honesty is the best policy." Well sir, on this occasion when truth was in accordance with your golden prospects, you fearlessly affirm, "He has both by precept and by actual demonstration, astonished us with his profound knowledge of the PRINCIPLES which govern his practice; and in a variety of difficult cases, in both sexes, has far exceeded our former knowledge." After reading this declaration from Howard's own pen, may we not be equally astonished at his extravagant pretensions of reformation and improvement.. What an oracle of medical science. He has gone back to the latin phrases of the schools—deals lavishly in the dull senseless round of classical technicalities—prescribes quinine and opium, like one of the regular faculty—drags in Thomson's prescriptions in a mangled mutilated form—such arrogant imposing pretensions demand the pointed reprehension of an honest and intelligent community.—Will this man, Howard, claim for himself or his coadjutors the honors, as he is supposed by many to have done by

the emoluments, that of right belong to Dr. Thomson.

We close these remarks with a quotation from the 181 page of the first volume of Howard's "Improved System." "It was reserved," said he "for Dr. Thomson to settle the clashing and contending of theories with practice, and to shed a lustre upon medical science with which it had never before been honored." But Howard is no longer "astonished at the profound knowledge of the PRINCIPLES which govern Thomson's practice." He has changed his note, and now says, "Dr. Thomson's THEORY was founded upon a few prominent features of his practice, which, as he was altogether unaided by science, led him into errors."—Perhaps if he had had an accurate knowledge of all the names and terms in Howard's index and glossary, he might have escaped the evils which have overtaken him. But these errors, our reformer declares ARE OF NO PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE!!! of course the improvements must have a more special regard to the GOLDEN HARVEST, than to any practical results for the benefit of any but the innovator.

### CATHARTICS.

Under this head, Reformer Howard, like the regular faculty, recommends purgative medicine, even gamboge, one of the most drastic articles of the kind; also, May-apple roots, which are rapid purgatives as the jalap of the shops; and for thirty years used by many physicians as a substitute, and often compounded and sold with jalapium, for jalap itself. He endeavors to revive the use of that nauseous article, rhubarb. All this is going back to the beggarly remedies of the schools of physic, and he calls it reformation!! Professions

and practices do not always agree. All is not gold that shines and glitters.—Howard, asserts upon the authority of the ancient schools, that purgatives "may be administered in most cases of fever, diarrhoea, dysentery, severe headache, bilious cholic, worms, &c." If he be a believer in the unity of disease, why not recommend purging in every form of disease, and prescribe consistently. Howard tells us, "this class of medicines," viz: cathartica, or purging medicines, which have been most frequently employed, are of too dangerous a character to be used at all—yet we know not of any in the whole class of purgatives, more common than gamboge and rhubarb, to which we may add the mandrake, which is called may-apple. Those who use jalap might as well use may-apple, and those who use may-apple, might as well use jalap. They stand precisely on a common level in the estimation of all competent judges. For ourselves we have long exploded the use of purgatives from our practice. It was with no small difficulty we conquered our propensity to lean to those vulgar prejudices, that induce so many to think, that in all cases of sickness they must resort to purging and drenching out the bowels with violence. Our confidence in Dr. Thomson's instructions, had a powerful influence upon our conduct. We have become convinced by deductive reasonings, practical experience, and faithful observation, that purgative medicines are not only useless, but in most cases, absolutely injurious. The three articles mentioned, are the only articles admitted by Howard among his compound purgatives, that have any fair claim to be admitted to the cathartical ranks. Those that have been most frequently employed he affirms are of "too dangerous a

character to be used at all," and we affirm, and every body knows we tell the truth, none are more common than those he recommends, therefore, logically and honestly we affirm farther, that upon his own acknowledged reasonings, or rather unqualified assertions, those purgatives he has recommended, should not be used at all, for they are dangerous, being the identical articles, that have been as frequently used as any other in the materia medica. In another place, he recommends buckthorn berries, also the extract, pills and syrup prepared from the butternut or white walnut bark; but the common and almost universal use of the latter, and very frequent use of the former, where it can be conveniently obtained; condemns it to the broad sweep of Howardian excision, for they have been so frequently employed, that they claim the common character of dangerous, and can do nothing for their foster father to support his claims to the character of a Reformer.

Dr. Thomson, in his practice, proposes by emetics, perspiratives and injections, to remove those obstructions of the stomach, bowels and skin, that occasion and support disease; of course purgatives are almost supernumerary.

Doctor Thomson in his 24th item of general directions, on the subject of purgative medicine, under a general, colonial appellation of "PHYSIC," has given us this very salutary advice—"never make use of "PHYSIC," in cases where there is canker inside, for it will draw the determining powers inward and increase the disease. I have seen so many bad effects from giving PHYSIC, that I have disapproved of the use of it altogether; but if any is given, after the operation, be careful

to keep up the inward heat, so as to cause a free perspiration."

This notion of purging the bowels with jalap, gamboge, white walnut, may-apple, rhubarb, &c. &c. is in all a vulgar folly, a tradition of the schools, and among the faculty, a servile plodding imitation of their predecessors, without a thorough investigation of facts, and examining the results of such practice for themselves. We have had sundry cases, where the patient, when going through a course of Thomsonian medicine, insisted on the use of a dose of calomel, or jalap, or rhubarb, or castor oil, as an auxiliary or assistant to the course: under such circumstances, some have inadvertently yielded to their patients, when they ought rather to have persevered with an undeviating hand, or have abandoned the cause to the purging faculty and their coadjutors. The fact is, we have never known an instance of the kind, where the patient was not a sufferer, by his own folly. We have known of instances, where patients were greatly relieved, and apparently convalescent, by a Thomsonian course, who evidently paid their lives, a forfeit to their rashness, in obstinately persisting in swallowing purgatives, the very use of which, implies a contrary indication from the Thomsonian prescriptions, and cannot apply to the same patient, at the same time, under any conceivable circumstance whatever.

Facts are stubborn things. The remarks we have made are now confirmed by the concurring testimony of a number of our most intelligent correspondents, who have met with similar occurrences. Then, when the purgative is down and begins to operate, the powers of life, that were rising with increasing energy, begin to decline; the obstruc-



tions that were removing, those determinations to the skin that were in progressive operation, all become retrograde, the animal functions are depressed, and vascular collapse invited, and assisted to complete the work of death. If we must have so many purgatives and all the various compound pukes reformers prescribe, we deprecate all farther reformation and stand firmly for restoration entire, total and unreserved to Thomsonian simplicity.

### THE PANTOMETER.

Mathematicians employ an instrument of this kind for measuring all sorts of elevations, angles and distances. Editors often take the liberty of using their quill as a kind of pantographical instrument to aid them in their reviews, examinations, investigations and measurements of men and things. In applying the instrument to the Columbus medical reformer, we have caught an eel by the tail, that is always slipping away. His zig-zag course is like the glide of a serpent on a rock, that puzzled a Solomon to comprehend. While he was agent for Thomson, he was like Paul at the feet of Gamaliel. But to be sure of being thought an oracle of medical knowledge himself, he labors industriously to astonish the world, with wonderful tales of oral information received, that is not to be found in Thomson's books. Of this boasting, we have given several specimens in this number of the Recorder. The object of it is easy to be discovered by the most superficial observer. But in all this he strives to cast a cloud over the Doctor's NARRATIVE and NEW GUIDE. He was preparing the way for his own advancement.—We have not found among the thousands who have purchased Thomson's rights, any complainings of obscurity or unintelligibleness. His works are as plain and easy to understand as words can be made readily to express. Those instructions of which Howard boasts so extravagantly, can be found

in the late supplements to the last editions of his books. There are, we will say in our turn, some valuable discoveries by Dr. Thomson, that are powerful auxiliaries to his scheme, that Howard has never seen, nor heard, neither hath it entered into his heart to conceive, but Thomson has in the plenitude of his wisdom freely communicated them to us by words proceeding out of his mouth. With these, honest agents, may expect to become acquainted as we have opportunity.

After all these "advantages," "verbal instructions," "practical demonstrations of the superior efficacy of the Thomsonian system," the "immense advantages to be derived from a thorough knowledge of his system and practice," which Howard has acknowledged, declaring in so many words, "we were comparatively but children in the knowledge of his system and practice," previous to these advantages, "and many valuable medicines were unknown to us," and finally, "he has, both by precept and by actual demonstration, astonished us with his profound knowledge of the principles which govern his practice." Who can tell the heights and depths, the lengths and breadths of the towering flights, romantic excursions, mysterious excentricities, and irregularities of his vacillating imagination. What a prodigy must Howard be among the rival competitors for medical fame!—Who will not see and know that the bellowing cry of reformation and improvement is a mere humbug—a farcical pretence: An extravagant presumptuous resolution to clamber the topmost round on the tall ladder of medical fame, mauger all difficulties. We cannot refrain from recollecting the strong language of Mr. Howard, concerning some of Thomson's agents, "regardless," says he "of their benefactor, they seem to have been disposed to exert their skill & craft to injure the man, to whom the just tribute of gratitude and esteem, we are persua-

ded, will be awarded by future generations, when all his enemies shall have long been forgotten." In looking at our reformer we may have mistaken his elevation, the angles are often so acute as to disenable our feeble intellect to decypher his problematic course, and the distance between Horton and Howard, defies all our skill in mathematical calculations, we shall therefore relinquish the application of our instrument, until by farther observation and clearer light we shall be enabled to proceed—so we will just report progress, with full design to sit again, when it suits our convenience.

### SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

In the extreme rage for reformation, reformer Howard has given us one truly interesting recipe. His prescription, unfortunate for the legislature, is out of season: But we have evergreens that might be substituted and make a rub-and-go preparation. Should he succeed to please the taste of the constituted authorities, he might be on the high road to the obtaining a medal, or reaping a "golden harvest!" We will now come to the point and emit one of those roseate rays of reformation light, that now begin to radiate the paths of medical science.—Ye connoisseurs of good cheer, smack your lips, and palates well prepare, and while your stomachs you sustain, you'll of your heads beware.

#### RECIPE.—SPEARMINT SLING.

"Take of the bruised herb, a sufficient quantity, or, essence of spearmint, brandy and loaf sugar, 'ENOUGH' to make palatable. Taken at pleasure. Very good to check vomiting."

The Temperance society in all their proceedings, have vetoed this part of the reformation. As he refers to the discretion of the patient to make the sling to suit his palate and take it at pleasure, they contend that it is a dangerous precedent and that there is often danger that instead of relieving, it will excite vomiting and

produce vertigo, paralysis, diuresis and purgation, dangerous to health, morals and comfort of the individual and of all parties that may be concerned in the general issue of the sling experiment. What an age of reformation!!

We will just ask our Thomsonian friends, if a judicious portion of Thomson's pepper sauce will not answer a more valuable purpose, without producing any of the deleterious consequences of such reformation doses.

### HOWARD'S RED DROPS,

#### OR SUDORIFIC TINCTURE.

Take of ipecacuanha, in powder, saffron, camphor, Virginia snake root, *ORPUM*, of each, two ounces; gin, or brandy, three quarts—digest for ten days, and filter. Dose a teaspoon full to an adult, according to symptoms, sometimes as often as once in half an hour."

We have carefully copied this recipe, *literatim et punctuatim*. This is given upon the authority of the Reformed Colleges of New-York and Worthington, Ohio. He endeavors to leave a loop hole to creep out, by prefacing his college recipes by saying, "we do not wish to be understood as recommending all the articles therein contained, but as the reformed colleges, &c. have obtained some celebrity, we feel disposed to lay a few of their remedies before our readers." In relation to the above preparation, he states, on the authority aforesaid, that it is much used in practice. "It is admirably calculated to relieve many diseases, in combination with warm diluents, depending on an obstructed perspiration, by its powerful sudorific effects. In derangement of the functions of the stomach, arising from the too free use of cold water in warm weather, rheumatism, coughs, colic, cramps and pains in the stomach, it is exhibited with great benefit."

Friend Howard must certainly have had some object in view in inserting this recipe in his book, and giving it

so high a character. He either did or did not intend it should be thought valuable, and be used accordingly. If he did, he must have intended to have introduced OPIUM into his reformed practice. OPIUM is a conspicuous and powerful article in this composition, making it two thirds the strength of the laudanum of the shops. He says, "this preparation is much used in practice"—probably meaning that it is of frequent use not only by itself, but in combination with other prescriptions.

If he did not mean to be thus understood, then his object must have been to enlarge his book, enhance its price, and put on an appearance of the acquisition of new and important discoveries, and important advances in reformation and improvement, when there was not, in this instance at least, any foundation in truth for these extravagant pretensions.

The editor of the *Medical Botanist*, appears to be at variance with his employer. See page 21, No. 2. "Reader, beware of the use of opium, in any quantity, or in the form of any preparation. It is a powerful narcotic poison:" yet, "much used in the reformed practice." This practice he affects to patronise: but treats the thing with that kind of ambiguity, that like the Delphian oracles, his statements will admit of various explanations, best suited to any particular dilemma. We might as readily decypher the mysteries of the Arabic alphabet, without a tutor, as to arrive at certainty, in this protoplasmic profile of Howard's medical reformation. Amidst all doubts and conjectures one thing is sure, he has his eye fixed on the recompense of reward, the "golden harvest."

Say, friend Howard, did you really intend to recommend this preparation and introduce it among the valuable discoveries peculiar to your reformation projects? or, did you mean to introduce it into your book of practice, for a target to sit and shoot at in your

Eclectic to amuse your leisure hours? Or did you calculate to make any thing and every thing, or nothing out of it as might best suit your convenience?

### ARTIFICE DETECTED.

Under the title *Editorial Items*, in the *Eclectic and Medical Botanist*, a paper devoted to Howardism in this town, we observe the following remarks, "☞ The *Cholera* has almost entirely disappeared in Cincinnati, where a short time since it raged with greater violence than in any of the eastern cities. The botanic practitioners of that city, have had ample opportunities of testing the efficacy of their medicines, in arresting the progress of this fatal pestilence; and their success has been unparalleled by that of any other mode of treatment. We have received several letters from our correspondents in that place, speaking in the highest terms of botanic medicine, as they were exhibited in the management of cholera. We are assured by our friend, Dr. Wm. Ripley, that he has particularly attended in person, upwards of one hundred cases of decided cholera, and has lost but twelve patients; and these, we are informed, were cases which afforded no prospect of relief when he was first called to them. Hundreds have used the medicine with the most salutary effect."

We would ask, is Howard's improved system entitled to any particular credit for Dr. Ripley's success? He evidently intends to make that impression on the reader's mind. But the public have a right to be acquainted with the unequivocal fact that the merit of the prescriptions lie emphatically and undeniably with Dr. Thomson. If Howard had been dead a year ago, it would all have been the same. This attempt to pillage the dear bought fame of our American Hippocrates, we cheerfully consign to deserved infamy.

## DOCTOR RIPLEY.

We have a valuable communication from Dr. Ripley, containing a special and very systematical detail of his method of treating the cholera in every stage. This we had intended to have published before this period, but it has been precluded for the want of room. His treatment of the complaint has been judicious and successful and rigidly Thomsonian. When we survey the whole matter, we stop and ponder with amazement over the favorite adage of friend Howard, "honesty is the best policy!!!"

## A MODERN WHIM.

Mr. Howard has really displayed some little ingenuity in copying the prescriptions of Dr. John Thomson, for the cure of cholera; To his bayberry tea he recommends the addition of Howard's Anti-spasmodic Tincture. You see kind reader the magic of a name. This is composed of lobelia, and cayenne tinctures, each 1 pint, and 3 gills of Howard's nervine tincture: and what is this? why lady's slipper with a portion of ginseng and nutmegs in tincture. But are ginseng and nutmegs nervines, or a make-shew? This is easy to answer. What is the object of recommending this? To make a parade by saying something, whether it should be sense or nonsense. Wherein consisteth the difference between Howard's tincture and Thomson's third preparation? The medicine is the same, only every person of discernment must see, no ways benefited, and indeed we do not hesitate to say, obviously injured by the addition of his ginseng and nutmegs. Every Thomsonian of common sense knows that Thomson's cayenne is infinitely preferable, and that to give more of Thomson's medicine in cases of emergency, will be better than to augment the bulk of the dose by piling on the useless farrago of Horton Howard.

## THE WHIM SUSTAINED.

After giving a long detail, on his own responsibility, how to treat Cholera, though he has never treated or ever seen a case in his life, Mr. Howard has lavished his encomiums on Dr. Wm. Ripley and the successfulness of his practice, evidently intending to convert the fame of the Doctor to his own advantage. In this successful practice, Doctor Ripley we are told made use of a mixture for the convalescent, to stay a diarrhea, that often supervenes to the collapsed state of those who are beginning to recover; it consisted of burnt brandy and loaf sugar combined with bayberry tea & cayenne pepper, with perhaps, the addition of a little raw flour. The burnt brandy and the flour no doubt might have occasionally been allowed by Dr. Ripley. But says Howard, "he occasionally introduces the same mixture, with a small addition of Thomson's 3d preparation into the bowels, by means of injections. The editor of the Eclectic, whose talents and virtues we sincerely respect, intent on sustaining the high pretensions of his sapient patron, obsequiously observes, "Instead of the third preparation, we would recommend the use of the antispasmodic tincture!!"

Can the editor assign any good and satisfactory reason for this bold and decided preference? Can he point us to an isolated instance in which Thomson's third preparation has failed to sustain the commendation of the inventor, and where Howard's substitute has succeeded better? Can he point us to the instance in which there had been a specific reliance on its superior efficacy, that had been successfully tested, at the time the assertion was made? No! No! No! we confidently presume not.—This is all idle conjecture, a sheer fancy, an editorial dream—a shot at a venture. What evidence, what experience, what sure data, on which to hazard the deliberate, unqualified recommendation of the antispasmodic tincture in preference to Thomson's 3d preparation, does the Editor or his patron appeal to for justification. None! we repeat it, none, for there are no facts to sustain the declaration. Every tyro in the Thomsonian ranks, and every man of medical understanding does know and

must know that cayenne and No. 6, are among the most valuable stimulants in the advanced stages of cholera. This, professor Drake, a physician of deserved fame, has candidly and seriously acknowledged, to his honor be it spoken. He might have heard of Howard, but we presume he had no knowledge of his ginseng and nutmeg antispasmodic at the time alluded to.

#### ADMINISTERING MEDICINE.

Under this head Howard remarks, "we will state for the satisfaction of those who are ignorant of his," Thomson's "book, or may wish to know which of our medicines we would apply in similar cases instead of his, that where Dr. Thomson's *third preparation* is recommended, or has been employed, our antispasmodic tincture should be used, *and is considered better.*" By whom, Mr. Howard, is it considered better? Not by us surely. Not by Thomsonians generally, for they have not been acquainted with it. Not by the regular faculty nor the people generally, for the former have not enquired with much interest into the subject, and the latter have never had opportunity to become acquainted with the merits of the question. Well then, the matter stands thus—friend Howard thinks so; for it is his interest to think so, and if he does not, he most certainly must imagine that it will be for his interest to say so, for this would be to bring water to his mill—this is the way to suppress Thomsonian medicine and bring his own prescriptions into notice. We have too exalted an opinion of Mr. Howard's good sense and discernment, to think he would say or do any thing inconsistent with what he considered best calculated to advance his own pecuniary interest. We shall never slander him so unreasonably—should we attempt it, his acquaintances would not believe us, though we should pledge our most sacred honor as a voucher for our veracity.

Howard proceeds, "where his," Thomson's, "No. 6 is employed, we would use the simple or compound tincture of myrrh; instead of his composition, use our diaphoretic medicines—." Among these his sudorific tincture or red drops, opium and all, must hold an

important place, for he affirms, on college authority that it "is much used in practice." He then adds, "instead of his," Thomson's "bitters, any of our bitter tonics, and instead of his No. 5, our tonic cordial." Mark the language "any of our bitters," no matter which of our many prescriptions, any thing that we have recommended, is preferable to what Thomson has recommended. We must confess we are as much astonished at the Reformer's arrogance & assurance, as ever he was at the prodigious fund of information he had derived from Dr. Thomson's instructions, as you may find stated by himself, and copied into one of our preceding pages.

#### TO THE PUBLIC.

My old agent, H. Howard, used formerly to boast most extravagantly of the verbal instructions and demonstrations he has received from me, and without which, my books would have been quite insufficient and almost useless. He states that these instructions were given particularly to honest agents in whom I had particular confidence.—This he thinks he merited, and so obtained a fund of information in relation to the treatment of female complaints, &c. and he has spoken in great commendation of my success with the wife of William Hance, whom he styles my particular friend. Indeed, both Howard and Hance, ought to have been and remained my friends. I had been their successful physician and benefactor.—Had they both always acted in uprightness towards me, had they come near the scribe of the golden rule, that confidence might have been cherished and retained, they might to this day have continued to receive instruction as freely as formerly I gave it, and I assure them, if I have any judgment or integrity in the case, they stand in great need of it. Alas! Mr. Howard, I have no confidence in your honesty, medical knowledge, or wisdom. I still continue to contribute all in my power for the information of honest agents, who have discretion to use such instructions for useful purposes, and not for any dishonorable speculation. The case alluded to, among others at which Howard was astonished, and as hinted above, is particularly stated in the supplement to my



**New Guide.** Perhaps by turning to it, the reader may not wonder at his astonishment, at the novelty of the thought, by which the plan of practice proceeded, and the success that attended it. That was a case of which we have no example or parallel in the annals of medicine. Here was demonstration of the good effects of a practice regulated by correct principles.\* Howard's conduct toward me, which I intend more fully to examine, reminds me of the woman, who with her bucket in one hand, and a cent's worth of salt in the other, proceeded to the pasture to milk her cow; Having arrived, she threw down her salt, and while the cow took a lick or two in the dirt, she filled her bucket with milk, which was worth half a dollar in market. The moment she had done milking, aiming her foot at the side of the cow, gave a violent kick, and angrily cried, "begone you brute."

When Howard undertakes to tell of my raving like a tyger, I feel as tho' he meant to kick me. I intend to be ware of his milking of me again. He must make much of his old milk. He has been like some of the old Israelites gathering manna, and it appears that by bad management, or bad keeping, it has become wormy, and has an unpleasant smell. The steadfast and honest Thomsonians, who have never pilfered from my writings, nor gone away into reform, shall have the pure milk of the word of truth, in all the little knowledge I possess or may attain, which is as good and precious as when Howard fed and rioted on the riches of the bountifulness thereof.—The milk has improved in quality and quantity, occasioned by many green pastures: The cow is the same and the udders are the same. Green pastures of honorable patronage, have still enabled me to do good and to commune, to which works of charity and mercy I feel myself strongly

inclined. I have not been under the mortifying necessity of reducing my price of *rights*, to degrade my discoveries, abuse former purchasers, and trample on the equal privileges of honest friends and patrons. My books have not fallen like Smith's to a single dollar; nor like Baker's, for any haphazard price, as I could meet with fools and get their money. Smith pilfered from me; and Howard, to evade the same charge against himself, contends, by Hance's testimony, that he borrowed from Smith and not from me. A large portion of his book and plates are copied out of Samuel Henry's *New and Complete American and Family Herbal*—as the copy right has expired and poor Henry dead, he has taken the liberty to copy a great part of the work, and palm this literary pilage upon the world as a book of reformation, new discoveries and wonderful improvements. I can shew any gentlemen his account of new articles printed in Boston, 1814, with his cuts and pictures. What a wonderful expense you must have been at—what sums of money you must have expended to learn so many new unheard of Indian remedies. Friend Howard, I am not "raving like a tyger," but I am speaking like a man that knows many of your crooked paths, and can bring many of your hidden things to light. The unicorn root which I used so successfully with your son-in-law, and went thirty miles through the woods to shew it to you, you have given to the world as your original discovery. The rattle weed or black cohosh, you learned perhaps from Mr. Barney, at the same time, though I had long been acquainted with the article and used it in medicine. Is it possible that such a benefactor as Howard has declared me to be, before he lost the agency for selling rights, before he had assumed my discoveries, has now become such a raging tyger? Has this angel of light become such a devil? such a wild beast? Why, Mr. Howard,

\* See *New Guide*, p. 174, 8th edition.

were you not standing before the looking-glass when you made this "new discovery?"—Submitted by  
**SAMUEL THOMSON.**

### ITEMS EDITORIAL.

We feel ourselves under special obligations to our numerous correspondents for their many interesting communications which we have now on file. They will be respectfully attended to.

A gentleman in whose testimony we confide without hesitation, confirms the intelligence received from various sources, concerning the violent and desolating march of yellow fever and cholera in the city of New Orleans. Thomsonians, he assures us, have so far been calm and undisurbed, amidst all dangers, and entirely unconcerned for the result, except by the deep heart-scalding sympathies they have felt for those citizens, whose sufferings they have been doomed to witness, but denied the privilege of attempting to extend relief. Nov. 1, 200 burials.

Columbus remains unusually healthy—not an instance of cholera has appeared among us.

On Monday next, the Legislature of Ohio will commence their session for the present season. Many of the honorable members have already arrived. Ample provision has been made for their reception by many of our best citizens, with whom they and others, whom the session or other causes may bring to the town, will find agreeable accommodation.

In Licking county, about the middle of November, *ultimo*, a correspondent informs us that a child of Wm. P—s, was attacked with sore throat and fever, Dr. B. was applied to—calomel was given and a blister applied to the throat—suddenly the child died! A younger child was seized in the same

way—Dr. F. was called in—a similar course was pursued—at any rate a blister was applied to the throat. It died in a few days!! The third was taken down with a similar complaint, and life despaired of when our correspondent received his last information. No censorious reflections are intended on the reputation of the intelligent and respectable regular physicians who attended these cases: But had they been steam doctors\*\*\*\* what then? The question would probably have been, who killed the children, and what? The answer would have been, the steam doctors, with their ipecac, cayenne and warm water have done the deadly mischief. Such is the power of superstition that the multitude can often be made to believe, that calomel, opium and blisters, are innocent, harmless, inoffensive remedies for disease, when given by some doctor, cracked up for a learned man, a regular physician, and that warm water, if it be raised to a steam, is very dangerous, and a little cayenne pepper will poison any one to death, if given by a steam doctor. So the world goes on!

The RECORDER is printed semi-monthly, that is, every other Saturday, for Two Dollars per year, or for every 25 numbers. The patronage of our friends is extensive—we cordially solicit the continuance of their generous, liberal and benevolent efforts in the "good cause." A title-page and copious table of index will accompany the last number of every volume.

The U. S. Thomsonian Convention will convene at Columbus on the 17th instant. We hope our friends who have not wandered after the pale meteor of reformation, will give punctual attendance.

**THE RECORDER,**

IS PRINTED BY M. L. LEWIS,  
 FOR PIKE, PLATT, & Co.

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense."

Vol. I. COLUMBUS, DEC. 15, 1832. No. 6.

An Essay in relation to the unconstitutionality, injustice, and injurious effects, resulting from our present aristocratical medical law in the state of Ohio. By HONESTUS.

I. Prejudice and superstition do violence to the reason of men. The moping anchorite, with his amulets and beads, recites his *ave maria* and implores the intercession of saints, as solemnly and conscientiously, as the most rationally devout offer their petitions before the throne of heaven's grace.

II. By reflecting correctly on the philosophy of the human mind, we readily discern that these occurrences are the natural and almost inevitable results of tuition.

III. Education, which should ever be directed to emancipate the mind from the shackles of ignorance, has been so erroneously conducted, as commonly to rivet the chains of intellectual slavery. We are more the children of circumstance, more under the mediate and intermediate influence of incidental impressions of early life, in which our moral responsibilities are but remotely involved, than many, even of our book-taught literati conceive or imagine.

IV. Our birth-place, education, and thousands of incidental circumstances, make indelible unresisted impressions, passively received, in our juvenile days of infantile pliability, when yielding to the plastic touch of custom, fashion, habit, precept and example, which the manly reasonings, experience, and deep convictions of riper years cannot utterly erase.

V. In India men are born Hindoos, in Turkey Mahomedans, in Rome, Catholics. They are Pagans, Jews or Christians, by their progenitorship: Their thoughts, feelings, prejudices, superstitions, enjoyments, aversions,

designs and anticipations are produced, generated, or created, by a generative or procreative process, as naturally and as certainly, as the fetal substance receives form, or unborn members grow,

"That in the amnion swims,  
And wakes at last to stretch its untied limbs"!

VI. A moments candid reflection may lead us to know and understand that foolish reverence for antiquity, that veneration for the learned ignorance of former days, that has so bewildered the world and outraged common sense.

VII. The mind, passively yielding, with implicit confidence, to the teachings of a preceptor, and never compelled to exercise its native independence, becomes a recreant mental sponge, that imbibes and absorbs, with inviolable attachment, to the most foolish fanciful notions, and grossest absurdities of thought and action, that have nothing to commend them, but a cloud of superstition, hung round with the spectres of antiquity and hallowed ignorance of former days, and the sanctified authority of "Thus saith the Fathers!!"

VIII. Follow up the stream of our present inquiries, and we shall soon discover the true cause of that easy credulity, which men so much wonder at in each other, and but seldom detect the same weakness existing in themselves. Thousands who feel are not willing to own that the cruel spirit of intolerance, springing from so corrupt and polluted a fountain, can have a residence in their own bosoms.

IX. If we would be truly wise and give all rational facility to wise and useful improvements and discoveries, we must rise above the dull and hazy atmosphere of the degrading, obsequious servile course, that has led, and still

leads the multitude astray; we must learn to shun all errors however sanctified by great names, or dignified by years, as ardently, as we inquire after and embrace the truth, whenever or however discovered or certainly made known.

X. In advertin g by a solitary glance as we pass along to the Christian system, the writer is no stickler for reformation. The religion of the gospel admitted to be true, it is predicated upon facts, its constitution fixed, its precepts and institutions immutable. The belief of truth that cannot be reformed, facts that are in themselves immutable is the Christian's faith; a correct understanding of the facts and truths believed is the *sumum bonum* of his knowledge, and a faithful, persevering conformity and obedience of the truth is the consummation of his hopes, in the consolatory enjoyments of the present passing season and ravishing anticipations & prelibations of the future !

XI. In philosophy, chimistry, medicine, and a long etcetera, in the routine of the proper objects of human investigation, reformation and improvement may most unquestionably, in many points be very prudently estimated objects of rational pursuit.

XII. Should any inquiry arise, wherefore reformation and improvements in arts and sciences are acknowledged to be admissible, we answer, not because there are no fixed immutable principles, relations and dependencies, and a regular, invariable connection between cause and effect, existing inherently in the nature and fitness of things, but these relations, connections and dependencies have never been perfectly understood, and therefore never fully developed by the boldest researches of science and time.

XIII. To talk of reformation and improvements on established facts and demonstrations is grossly absurd, it is an unintelligible solicism in language: the arts and sciences, through the de-

fective limitedness and imperfection of human intellect, have never been able in all points to settle on so sure and unequivocal a basis: they have never been the subjects of a divine revelation, and lie open for free enquiry and the most ample discussion.

XIV. We live in an enlightened era of the world; the progress of science and the march of mind, will be an everlasting memento of the present age, and the recitation radiate the pages and cast a halo of glory round the historic recollections of many generations now slumbering in their future sires. Yet strange to tell, surrounded with so many advantages, we see a vast proportion in the great mass of human society, that renounce the demonstrations of reason, received from honest inquiry, devoutly idolize antiquated traditions, and in philosophy, medicine, and their kindred sciences adhere as pertinaciously, to the suggestions of bigotry, and impress of superstition, with as little investigation, reflection and independence of mind, as the obsequious anchorite, twirling his beads, caresses his amulets, and invokes the tutelary intercessions and protection of St. Andrew!!!

XV. The system of education generally pursued is favorable to such a degrading and deplorable state of things. The learned world, with some rare individual exceptions, have ever aspired to engross all knowledge, and all the honors and emoluments of social life. This disposition has ever excited a dread among a graduated literati of encouraging plebeian talents, however brilliant. Originality of genius and independence of mind discovered, the suspicions of an envious jealousy are roused. Paul who was free born received an envious look from a Roman officer who purchased freedom at a great price.

XVI. How often has the lamp of native genius been extinguished or unrighteously concealed, by a combination of learned but malevolent and im-

placable persecutors, who like the sons of Jacob would sell their brother to the Ishmaelite merchants, if they only imagined that in him they had found a competitor.

**XVII.** Alas! how few even among the distinguished and dignified leaders in society possess the genuine spirit of unfeigned benevolence! The simplicity and pure spirit of an honest man? Who among us receives heartily and conforms with undeviating resolutions to the real convictions of his own mind? However rare such characters may be, they only have an eye single to the general weal. They only rejoice in the real unsophisticated prosperity and happiness of the great commonwealth of rational beings.

**XVIII.** As in community, the amount of wealth consists in the aggregate amount of general industry, and not in a few large individual estates, so the real value of literary property possessed by the state is not to be estimated by the extraordinary talents of a few great scholars, but by the aggregate amount of individual knowledge diffused through the whole commonwealth.

**XIX.** Colleges, universities and seminaries of learning have been extensively established and liberally and zealously patronized: literary combinations have risen up, a learned aristocracy intent to enslave the world and make nations tributaries to increase their emoluments and advance their fame.

**XX.** Learning and property are the elements of political power. These elements combined and put in operation, are the most efficient means for the elevation of the few and the subjugation of the many. Hence the combinations of church and state and a patented priesthood, whose business has ever been to coerce the multitude to embrace a legally established faith, or forfeit their lives at the martyr's stake. This monopolizing spirit constitutes in all civilized countries, a lit-

erary aristocracy, a privileged order, whose ends and aims ever have been, are now, and ever will be hostile to the equal and unalienable rights and privileges of society at large.

**XXI.** How many speeches have been made and volumes written? How has the pulpit and the forum rang and the press groaned? What edicts have been passed? Hark! The roar of cannon, clash of arms, the din of war, and martyr's groans to evince the divine right of Kings, to establish ecclesiastical-political authority, and compel the multitude to wear the yoke of bondage.

**XXII.** From the root of that same baneful upas that has for ages and generations poisoned the cup of civil liberty, springs the stale delusion, that antiquated superstition, that a man can not have any competent knowledge of law, physic or divinity, unless he be deeply versed in the legendary lore of ancient Greece and Rome. This has given birth to the pompous titles, obsequious cringings, stupid adulations and blasphemous eulogies that have originated in our colleges and universities. These are the froth and scum of tyrants brains, to feed the ambition of sycophantic tools, and gratify that folly that loves to be called Rabbi.

**XXIII.** In this land of freedom, the asylum of the oppressed and the hope of the world, far removed from the commonwealth of despotism, shall we not as a free, magnanimous and independent people, dare to think and act for ourselves, to assume our proper rank and dignity in the scale of being, and shake off the reckless aspirations of a clerical, legal, and medical denomination, that invades our rights and holds them in contempt?

**XXIV.** In the long concatenation of human incidents, we notice an obvious and remarkable similarity. Similar measures, in different countries have been adopted for similar purposes.—Like the varied forms of disease in the human body, it is a unit, the evil is the same in its common nature, though



the body politic may be variously effected.

XXV. Incorporating religious societies, appropriating the funds of the state to sectarian purposes, establishing sectarian colleges, to confer exclusive privileges on any particular association or combination of the medical faculty, is nurturing a scion of the same stock, it is increasing the evil we deplore: it is in the estimation of ingenuous and judicious men, who have no sinister motives to influence their judgment, and feel no undue influence of the bias of tuition, a bold and daring invasion of the high prerogatives and equal rights of a highminded and magnanimous people.

XXVI. The coalision of the medical faculty in this state, and the protection of that coalision by legislative patronage, we confidently affirm to be contrary to the letter and spirit of the constitution and a direct and undeniable violation of the oath of legislators, whereby they are sworn to maintain that sacred charter of our liberties.

XXVII. It is presumed that a very respectable proportion of what are denominated the regular Faculty, never aspired after, or were any way accessory to the bringing into existence, such an unreasonable and unconstitutional law. The idea, even in embryo has been revolting to their moral feeling, and high conceptions of political honor justice and propriety.

XXVIII. This charitable presumption receives confirmation by reference to and recollections of the dilatorious manner in which the provisions of the law were carried into execution by the dull and tardy steps with which many proceeded to form into corporate medical associations, as the act prescribed. Such was the total neglect and indifference in some places, certainly in one instance, and it is distinctly recollected that it was a reputable district, the law was treated with that entire neglect and inattention, that a distinct, separate and special act of Assembly

was formed, making appropriate provisions to compel them to come in.

XXIX. Such a law as that regulating medical practice in the state of Ohio, is without precedent in the draconic statutes of the despots and aristocratic tyrants of Europe, except in Catholic countries. Even in Spain, we shall not find an exact pattern, or any law more unequal and unrighteous in its operations.

XXX. The laws of England or of English America have not presented us a model of which our law is an imitation. "There is a perfect understanding and combination among the faculty," says Dr. Thomson, "throughout the United States, who all seem to be aiming to accomplish the same ends; that is, as I conceive, to get power into their own hands, so as to have complete control over the people, and bring them all to their own terms."

XXXI. In 1818 a labor commenced that has been pursued with avidity. In that year a petition was presented, to the Legislature of Massachusetts with the ostensible design of suppressing quackery, as it was called. But its most prominent and discriminating feature, was a request that none should be allowed to practice medicine, "but such as had received a diploma from some medical college."

XXXII. "This," says Dr. Thomson, "was a direct interference with the rights of the people, and was so contrary to the genius of our government, that they who were interested in obtaining the passage of such a law, found it would not do to carry the business too far at one time; but would be best to gain their point by degrees."

XXXIII. The project thus originated, spread like fire in a dry stubble. The state of New-York caught the infection, but like the cholera it was suppressed by the efforts of the botanic faculty, and nearly fifty thousand coajutors, who made a most decided

remonstrance in opposition to the daring and gigantic strides of an aspiring, ambitious and domineering medical aristocracy.

XXXIV. The regular faculty of Ohio caught the eastern contagion. Here the project originated in the speculative views of a few interested, influential, aspiring individuals determined to establish a medical college, where they, or their friends could be well provided for, be honored with a professor's chair, lecture themselves into public notice, and realize the fond hope of reaping a plentiful harvest of literary fame from fairy land, the honors that such favorite *legions of honor*, mutually confer on each other.

XXXV. The midnight lamp, the noonday sun, witnessed the indefatigable labors of this little band, groping their way from Cincinnati to Columbus, uniting as many of the FACULTY as they could draw into the measure, assailed with unwearied zeal the HALL of LEGISLATION: after many combats, foils and disappointments they succeeded, and brought forth that prodigy of the western world, "an act to incorporate medical societies, for the purpose of regulating the practice of physic and surgery in Ohio." This act bears date Feb. 26, 1824. Three amendatory, supplementary acts, were subsequently appended to the original statute, to keep the magical machinery in motion: after all these formidable efforts, it remains, with all its appendages, a weak and inefficient production, derogatory to the high and pure character of our republican institutions.

XXXVI. For what specific valuable purpose was this regulation wanted? Do we, can we, unhesitatingly believe, that the fathers and founders of this mighty scheme had the welfare of the community exclusively at heart? Did they contemplate with sympathetic grief the danger hovering round the health, lives and fortunes of the people? Did they exercise a dis-

disinterested benevolence towards society exposed to evils requiring of them some conscientious effort to evade or escape impending evil? \*\*\*\*Yes\*\*\*\* that we poor simpletons might be prevented from jeopardizing all we hold dear in time, by compelling us not to employ any but the legal doctor, who sets up a claim of exclusive privilege.

XXXVII. We will here inquire in the language of one who appears to have had a correct understanding of the subject: "In what light can we view any professional body which needs the law to support it? If a recommendation or diploma, from a medical society is not sufficient to enable its possessor to obtain employment, and to compete, at least on equal and honorable terms, with those who have not this mark of distinction, what value can be placed upon the medical institution? If, after acquiring all the qualifications which the faculty boast of possessing, and with all the honor and popularity attached to the profession, they are still unable, without the aid of the Legislature, to support their high pretensions to an exclusive knowledge, and the exclusive practice of the healing art, by what criterion can we estimate their usefulness?"

XXXVIII. We would press the interrogation of the author of the address to the Botanic Society: "if," says he, "all the glitter, the show, and the splendor, fancifully attached to medical science, affords no efficient passport to employment and distinction—if it affords no efficient aid to a solitary professor, nor to the whole medical faculty united—if they are unable, with all their boasted advantages over the "empiric" the dealer in "nos-trums," &c. &c., to obtain employment, without the aid of a special law to secure to themselves an exclusive patronage, how little must all their learning—all their laborious, midnight studies, and poring over volumes after volume of ponderous books, ele-

vate them in the eyes of the world?

XXXIX. We appeal to the ingenious, scientific man, we inquire of every intelligent reflecting citizen, can a generous hearted, candid, honorable, high-minded man, apply for special and exclusive aid and protection from the civil law in professional pursuits, to obtain distinguishing emoluments and fame, that he may leave his more honest, less assuming neighbor lagging in the rear? shall such aspirants be suffered not only to obtain legal and exclusive protection for themselves, but shall they be privileged to have the same law converted into an instrument of oppression and condemnation of their condign and more successful competitors? The men of real merit, who are honestly entitled to confidence and patronage, need not to rust in obscurity—they can never have occasion to rest on legal protection, that they may rise above their equals, and rival their superiors, and partake of exclusive and distinguishing advantages to which they have no higher claim in justice, than any other band of oppressors who trample with impunity on the rights of the people.

XL. We shall only take a cursory glance at the above named act of legislative favoritism as we pass along. After naming in the act, individuals of whom the districts shall be respectively composed,—see 3d. states—“That the persons named, as aforesaid, and *their associates*—in their respective districts, shall hold their meetings, &c. This is a dark ambiguous expression in a case so deeply connected with the dearest rights of humanity. Who those “their associates” may have been, or who or what particular class or order of beings were meant to be included, we are left to decypher and apply to suit circumstances.

XLI. Say, ye learned regulars, ye wise men of physic, can and will you inform us who those “their associates” were—who did the law intend to de-

signate? Ask our learned counsellors, they will pause! look wise!! and consider!!!—Can we imagine our honest, intelligent, high-minded legislators, deliberately designed to include in this system of favoritism, every student of medicine in the employ of the persons named, every ignoramus who by a combination of incidents might be casually employed at their pestle and mortar, or in any other way connected in business relating to the profession? What a motley group! what a legion of honor! What bloodless laurels crown the victors brow!

XLII. The reflecting reader will not find himself deceived by this examination. Every thing must have a beginning. Patronage was indispensable—there infallibility had been called in question—the superior skill of botanical competitors, had been tested at the tribunals of the country—the craft was in danger—the storm was brewing at a distance—the business required haste—the reddening dawn of a day of exclusive patronage began to illumine the eastern sky—a medical society must be formed here—delays are dangerous—these societies at the commencement must be constituted of such materials as can be furnished and collected under existing circumstances. “They and their associates,” what a ludicrous amalgamation! But they must be consolidated!

XLIII. The giving the names of certain individuals to the public must have some magical charm connected with the issue! What? How? *mirabile dictu!* “Ye Gods! what havoc doth ambition make through all your works!” I once knew an individual, who had such an exalted opinion of these occult physical associations that he was fully impressed with the idea, that to resort to those *TEMPLES of CLOACINA*, where the Franklins, Washingtons, and Jeffersons deposite their ster-  
coracious dejection, was calculated to make a man of common genius wiser and better. If such be the marvelous

results of association, what a pity the medical colleges generally could not be provided with an accommodation, better suited to their case, and promising greater advantages, than legal patronage!—

XLIV. In the very act to which we have now a special allusion, who does not see, judging the act by its own merits, that the whole scheme is nothing more nor less, than insolent imposing quackery systemized and sanctioned by law.

XLV. "*Certain persons named and their associates*" is a prominent feature of this extraordinary and sweeping statute. This broad provision includes all conceivable union, agreement, bargain, contract, confederation partnership or connection, that could possibly exist, that bore any direct and immediate relation to the professional business of the persons named. As the law exists, and the expression so frequently occurs in the act, we give *verbatim et literatim*, without further definition: we leave it as we find it, an insolent and abusive imposition upon the unalienable rights and privileges of the enlightened citizens of a free and independent community.

XLVI. By the 7th Section of the law alluded to, provision is made, that all who can produce "satisfactory evidence of having attended *one* course of medical lectures at some reputable institution," "shall on application be admitted a *member* of any medical society in this state.

XLVII. Have any of our venerable legislators ever believed, or do they now, or will they ever hereafter believe, that there ever was, is, or ever will be, any such rare, specific and infalible efficacy in the tuition, instruction, lectures &c., at the college buildings, that in the course of a few short winter months, can infuse intellect, genius and scientific knowledge into a self-conceited, pedantic, sciolous strippling, entitle him to be estimated a regular physician, to have conferred on

him the diplomatic honors of the University, with legal privilege of sporting, tampering and speculating with the health, life and property of our citizens, while his neglected, unnamed, undignified, senior, in years, knowledge and experience is consigned to an ignominious degradation, to suit the spirit of the times.

XLVIII. Both the "*named*" and *unnamed*, residing in the same district, one is arbitrarily and undeservedly taken, and the other is designedly an unrighteously left. And why left? Because forsooth he might have been standing in some favored fopling's way. Probably, the rejected had read medicine, possessed genius, and received instructions, in the old fashioned way, from the most intelligent, talented physicians to whom he had access. He was proprietor of an extensive and valuable library—had been acknowledged by an extensive and reputable acquaintance, to be a studious, intelligent, industrious, attentive, careful, affectionate, and successful practitioner; but, however enlightened, enterprising and successful he may have been availeth him nothing—three or four months instruction at some medical college, some "reputable institution, and these Gods of physic can transform an *ignoramus* to an *ESCULAPIAN*: In many cases, men who have made themselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness, or have availed themselves of the benefits of some little transient popular favor with these institutions, have obtained the magical parchment, that transmitted them from the cold, dark, dreary regions of dolesome ignorance, to rank with the wisest oracles of medical science, many of whom have clambered the ladder of medical elevation beyond the purview of these legal restrictions, in a similar manner before them. What an hoax! Do the people love to have it so?—

XLIV. Mark that expression of the law, "Evidence of having attended

vate them in the eyes of the world?

XXXIX. We appeal to the  
 vious, scientific  
 ry intelligent  
 generous heart  
 high-minded  
 and exclusive  
 the civil law  
 to obtain  
 and fame  
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 ing in  
 be s  
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1824  
 course of lectures  
 safe and sure  
 want of distinction  
 privileges  
 the law  
 fence to  
 the law  
 it, and  
 and provided for, by the ludic-  
 provisions of the medical gag-

XLV. These invidious distinctions  
 under the penal sanction of municipal  
 law, call loudly and imperiously for  
 immediate redress. Truth and justice  
 speak in a voice of thunder and must  
 be heard!

XLVI. Mere exclusion from the  
 honors of a seat in the district board of  
 physicians, doctors according to law,  
 is not the subject of our complainings.  
 We have no objection to offer, why  
 they, alone, should not have ex-  
 clusive privilege to flay men's skins  
 with blisters, rot and drag out their  
 teeth and jaw-bones with mercury,  
 drain the warm fountain of their pre-  
 cious lives with the blood spilling lan-  
 cet, or murder them in a more summa-  
 ry way with prussic acid, or any oth-  
 er mineral or vegetable poison. Our  
 regret is, that some more sure and effi-  
 cient restraint, consistent with our  
 exalted ideas of civil liberty, can not  
 be fastened on these privileged medi-  
 cal regulars, to render them unavoida-  
 bly and completely amenable to some  
 competent tribunal, for all injuries sus-  
 tained from their indiscreet and dan-  
 gerous practices.

XLVII. To crown the climax of  
 legislative absurdity, interference with  
 and abusive invasion of our constitu-  
 tional rights and privileges, the law of  
 1824 provides, sec. 11, that no person,  
 other than the members of said medi-  
 cal society, shall, after the first day of  
 July next, be permitted to practice  
 physic or surgery in this state; and if  
 any person, not being a member of

societies, shall practice  
 surgery, he shall not be en-  
 titled to the aid of the law, or courts of  
 this state, in the collection of any debt,  
 or demand whatever, arising, or ac-  
 cruing from such practice, but the  
 same shall be considered null and void,  
 and shall vitiate and destroy any bond,  
 bill, note or contract, ~~whatsoever~~,  
 into which the same shall in any wise,  
 be carried, changed or transferred;  
 and such person shall moreover, for-  
 feit and pay the sum of TEN DOLLARS  
 for every violation of this act, &c.

XLVIII. We have never seen any  
 thing in the annals of legislation to ex-  
 ceed this bold adventure of putting to  
 the test the feelings of the people. The  
 principle attempted to be established,  
 leaning most heavily on comparatively  
 few, has not excited general attention,  
 and roused the congregated energies  
 of the community to a burst of univer-  
 sal indignation. All have not exam-  
 ined, all have not carefully reflected,  
 all have not realized that deep interest  
 in the results of this statute, which  
 have a special bearing on some of the  
 most important principles of civil ju-  
 risprudence.

XLIX. It is questionable, whether  
 one in ten of our honorable legislators  
 have ever given that law a serious and  
 deliberate reading, or critically and  
 conscientiously investigated the results  
 in carrying its provisions into full ex-  
 ecution, since the enactment thereof.  
 The reader is seriously requested to  
 examine and re-examine the preceding  
 quotations from that notorious act,  
 that begins to arouse a redeeming spir-  
 it of free inquiry among our enlight-  
 ened citizens, calling loudly for re-  
 dress of a public grievance, oppress-  
 ively, unreasonably and unconstitu-  
 tionally imposed on a free and inde-  
 pendent state.

L. No matter how extensive your  
 erudition and medical experience, nor  
 how successful your practice may  
 have been, nor how highly society  
 may appreciate your medical attain



ments, if the *Letter of the law* does not embrace you as a favored son, and by invidious unreasonable distinction provide for your remuneration.

LVI. No service, however laborious expensive and skillful, can legally entitle you to any pecuniary consideration. The law is against you—you are an *out-law*, worse than an *out-law*. The man relieved of a grievous affliction, a dangerous disease removed by your skill and laborious attention, feels an overwhelming tide of gratitude roll over his mind, sensible of the unrighteous operation of the law in his case, determines on a liberal donation: "No!—No *CONTRACT*—*whatsoever*," can avail in so hard a case—some hungry, starving JACKALL, buoyed up with his "Parchment *scrawl*—from College *Hall*," stands ready to pounce upon him, *by himself*, or, by the agency of some *dirty tool*, employed to prosecute and impose upon him a fine of ten dollars.

LVII. Why was this penal fine annexed to the original law? For the same reason that the penal prohibition of a fair and equitable remuneration is suffered still to blacken the record of Ohio legislation: not for rendering services to the sick—not for prescribing, or administering remedies—not for time, trouble, skill or expense employed for the relief and comfort of suffering humanity: no!—what then is the heinous offence? what the design of the law?

LVIII. We find a full answer to these interrogations in the following clause of said 11th section: "If any person so practising, SHALL NOT DEMAND OR RECEIVE ANY FEE OR REWARD—*for the same*, he shall be exempt from the penalties of this act." The fee \*\*\* and reward \*\*\*\* fee and reward!!!\*\*\*\*. There's the rub!—What care we Regulars for health or life among these plebians? Eat your roots and herbs, swallow your lobelia, cayenne and No. 6: poison yourselves to death! For this we

feel no concern: But if there be a cent of cash depending, we are determined to have exclusive privilege to poison you ourselves. We will: compel you to give the graduated regular faculty and their associates your money.

LIX. That our benevolent intentions may not prove abortive—if the doctor—according to law—dozes you lawfully with mineral and vegetable poisons, the patient and the crime are destined by law to be buried in the same grave. The lawful physician having lawfully poisoned you to death, and placed you snugly in a lawful grave, which by the way, ought to be dug by a *lawful and regular sexton*, or the *digger* be debarred by law from any "*fee or reward*," and pay ten dollars for the offence, no sooner are these works of death, and the *doctor according to law*, completed, than, here comes a legal claim—a claim, which, says the act defining the duties of executors and administrators, *shall have preference*, of all other claims! The expenses of the last sickness of the poisoned victim shall rank with funeral expenses.

LX. So sure as the sexton who dug the grave, or the joiner who made the coffin get remunerated for their services, if there be a bare sufficiency of funds remaining of the estate of the deceased, so surely shall the legalized doctor obtain his full reward.

LXI. A designing few among the regular medical faculty, after long, timorous, and painful cogitations, matured their plans, for a vigorous step—they have measurably effected their nefarious designs. That wicked and unconstitutional law is the spawn of their own brains, and those of their coadjutors. It was never called for by the honest unsuspecting yeomanry, the mechanics or the laboring poor. It was not remotely intended to benefit any living being, save those enclosed within the legal pale of the medical association. It was a legal provision to echance the emoluments of a mo-

nourishing faculty, to the exclusion of all others, however qualified or deserving; we can not discover a shred of evidence that it was remotely intended to be graduated by the scale of moral or political justice.

LXII. We would most strenuously invite legislative attention to be directed towards that law. Are the quotations we have made, particularly the 11th sec. of said law, consistent with the declaration of the constitution, Art. viii. sec. 1: "That all men are born equally free, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety." The act alluded to, operates in many cases to the compelling men to abandon all the laws of humanity in relation to the sick and afflicted, or render an "*involuntary servitude*," without any hope of reward. Humanity and a sense of duty may compel a slave to submit and obey his oppressor, rather than embrace his hands in the blood of his master: of two evils he chooses the least—who does not see and admit, that this is "*an involuntary servitude*?" Are not the cases nearly parallel? In many instances men must relinquish all sympathy and commiseration, and withhold the means of relief from an afflicted and miserable sufferer, or involve themselves in labors and expenditures injurious to themselves and families, for which they can never be remunerated, by the gratitude of the recipient of their services without an open exposure to the penalties of the law!!!

LXIII. The humane society offer premiums and rewards to any man who shall rescue his fellow beings from certain dangers, or recover the drowned, or him whom heaven's lightnings scathed resuscitate from suspended animation, but an unchartered, unpatented, sans-diploma physician, is punishable by the law of Ohio for administering medicine for the same hu-


mane and benevolent design.

LXIV. If a wife be in labour, and no *parchment* doctor near, or only some young graduated stripling, who it would be indecorous, in such circumstances to admit to the company of modest dames, and revolting to every delicate feeling to have him attempt to officiate, what can be done? who would not hazard the penalties of the law, and set at defiance acts of assembly, hostile to the rights, liberty, safety, health, happiness and life of himself and family? To enact laws to be trampled on, that cannot reasonably be carried into effect, is calculated to break down and destroy all law, and all regard or veneration for law, and leads to universal anarchy.

LXV. If I be conscientiously opposed to bleeding, blistering, mercurialising, or poisoning with emetic tartar, opium, arsenic, or prussic acid, shall I be compelled to employ a law-made doctor, who deals almost exclusively in these potent remedies? Shall I be coerced by the penal scourge of an unjust, man-degrading law, into such murderous measures, in defiance of that commandment of the everlasting God, "*Thou shalt not kill!*" \* \* \* Or must I sink to an untimely grave, thro' fear of some penal suffering, or fine to be imposed on myself, or on the physician I wished to consult? In his humanity, integrity, good conscience, skill judgment, and successfulness in treating disease I have the fullest confidence but, the law says, thou shalt not employ him, shalt not pay him if employed—all contracts ~~to~~ to that effect shall be made void.

LXVI. True we are not expressly laboring under such direct and absolute inhibition, that we can not safely implore their charity: but it places a man of ingenuous feelings in an awkward predicament. It is useless to deny that the act of which we are complaining, is a law designed to be compulsive. It was intended in all its bearings to have a coercive effect, in compelling the sick by a combination of circumstances, and adopting its provisions to every possible occurrence, constrain people thro-

dire necessity, to employ men, as physicians, and sometimes boys, and almost idiots, in the art of removing disease, but made wise by four months attendance at college, or, otherwise, perish without any medical assistance. Might I not with equal propriety, and with equal justice, be compelled to attend at, or to erect and support certain places of worship, or maintain a patented clergy, either Papal or Protestant without my consent and against my conscience, as to be compelled to employ a physician of a certain class, contrary to my best judgment, and utterly against my will?





LXVII. We ask a moment's attention of the 16th sec. of the said viii article of our most excellent constitution: It reads thus, "No *ex post facto*, law, nor any impairing the validity of contracts— shall ever be made."—Here is wisdom! here is law! yes, we repeat it, here is law paramount to all possible enactments of speculating legislators.

LXVIII. Physicians ambitious and aspiring, may meditate and ruminate their speculating schemes, their friends and family connexions may for a while support their pretensions to exclusive monopolising advantages, foster their superstitions, and raise a dark cloud of gross tradition, that may continue for a season these bewildering deceptions. But the reign of *ghostly crafts* that have so long trampled on common sense, and hurled reason from her native throne, is passing away. They will not long be able to support a sinking cause, that cannot bear the ordeal of impartial and rational inquiry. The projects of *designing combinations*, and all their tremendous machinations, against the dignity and common interest of the body politic of a free and independent state, cannot suppress the rising spirit of opposition to their dangerous experiments, and compel men of this enlightened era to acquiesce in a quiet unresisting submission.

LXIX. Truth, pure and unadulterated truth, is lighting up her lamp, in many private dwellings, it begins to radiate the counsels of state—legislative patronage will eventually cease to be thus grossly perverted. The repeal of the penal fine of ten dollars already obtained augurs favorably to the

great and good cause, and will stimulate to more faithful efforts every true patriot, until every vestige of tyranny shall be banished from the earth, and mortal bondage no longer chain the mind: but civil, ecclesiastical, and mental oppression fall to rise no more. Such are our ardent desires, and such our animating anticipations.

LXX. Should we not succeed to repel the arm of usurpation, should the fell spirit rise triumphant on the whirlwind of popular delusion, and direct successfully the storm of aristocratic monopolising combinations, men of reflection, who do their own thinking, view these tremendous strides of legal patronage, ill boding omens, clouds of thickening danger, portentous of the final overthrow of our republican institutions. Behold Columbia's Eagle stretches his pinions for an unknown flight, or folds his wings and dies!!!

LXXI. "No law," says the constitution, "*impairing the validity of contracts— shall ever be made.*" This constitution our legislators are sworn to support. Yet awful to relate, with this special constitutional provision, the import of which can not be mistaken, and this oath staring them full in the face, our Legislature did enact a law, to impair any contract— that has been, may or can be made between the unprivileged physician and his patient. No service he may render to the sick and dying, no medicine he may administer, no prescription, painful attention, or successful application, where regulars have failed, as has been the case in thousands of instances, yet this shall not entitle his physician to remuneration; on the contrary, "He shall not be entitled to the aid of the law, or courts of this state, in the collection of any debt, or demand *whatever*, arising or accruing from such practice; but the same shall be considered null and void, and shall vitiate and destroy any bond, bill, note, or contract— or— into which the same shall in anywise be carried, changed or transferred; and such person shall forever forfeit and pay the sum of ten dollars, for every violation of this act." This was the law of 1824: the latter clause is all that has been repealed.

LXXII. Strong indeed must be the

delusion and infatuation of any people, that can obsequiously consent to yield a quiet, unresisting submission to such an outrage upon their understanding, such a violent prostitution of their constitutional prerogatives, that often serves to elevate quackish insolence, to the degradation of their seniors in wisdom, knowledge, goodness, medical science, and all those literary, moral, civil and social virtues, that exalt human character.

**LXXIII.** The voice of the people will once more be heard in the hall of our legislature. We have confidence in the integrity, wisdom and moral feelings of that honorable body. Rouse! Legislators rouse! Our liberties are at stake—lift your strong arms—arrest the progress of usurpation—let the name of our Republic be blotted out from under the whole heaven!

## A CHOLERA CHAPTER.

BY SAMUEL THOMSON.

1. It is truly an imperious duty, incumbent upon all men, as members of civil society, to apprise men of danger, present or approaching, and warn them to escape impending evil in every lawful and honorable method within their power.

2. The cholera cloud has for a long time hung round our country, and multitudes have died along our sea-coast towns and cities, and in the back and western countries.

3. By our last advices from Orleans the mortality was prevailing to a terrible extent—from 150 to 200 dying in a day.

4. Our friends acquaint us that while the multitudes are dying round them, faster than they can find graves to hold them, yet they feel secure and fear no particular danger, and can only feel sorry for those of their fellow creatures that are swallowing their deadly doses, while the steam doctors have not the privilege to save life, when it could easily be done.

5. To them and all others in similar circumstances, is this word of compassion and good will most kindly dedicated.

6. If you would keep clear of the cholera, avoid the doctor, who comes to you with his calomel, opium and lancet:

7. Let those cholera preventives alone that are puffed and blown in the newspapers, just to get your money, regardless of consequences.

8. Always make it a rule not to take any medicine, unless you know what you take it for; and never take any thing that will make a well man sick, but try always, when you use any medicine at all, to use such as will make a sick man well.

9. Drive off all fright and fearfulness about cholera, for that will lead you off after cholera preventives, and lead you after the cholera nostrum doctors.

10. The learned quacks will draw off your blood, the very fountain of your life, they perhaps will do as they certainly have done, syrringe in a large quantity of saline fluid, or white lie, into your veins, and purge, and blister and salivate besides.

11. This is doing a great business.—In addition to all this they may, as they certainly have, prescribe a gill of brandy and 200 drops of laudanum to be taken in the course of two or three hours.

12. Ten to one if the college doctor does not put down 50 or 60 grains of calomel, if very popular perhaps twice that quantity.

13. In this way the game is played—the blind are leading the blind—they are all falling into the ditch together, until the grave is running over full.

14. This has been the case in many places, but especially at Orleans, where the plague rages and will rage until there is a change in the medical practice.

15. Falsehood and deception there prevail, and death goes on taking a wide swath, and we may well exclaim in the fulness of our sympathy, O, foolish inhabitants of a country boasting of light and liberty! How long will you sacrifice yourselves and your children at the shrine of the moloch of mineral poisons, and the learned ignorance of the doctors who give you poisons according to law.

16. Some do and will enquire why mortal disease is more prevalent at some seasons than another. To answer this interogation, we will refer you to the year of 1806. Then was the total eclipse of the sun. Such was the chilly state of the atmosphere that season,



that little corn was raised, the crops all failed to an alarming degree—the yellow fever and dysentary prevailed.

17. The doctors had bad success.—The same preventives, viz: calomel, opium, blistering and bleeding, and a train of nostrums were used as preventives, and the same remedies to cure were used, as have been since used, and are now using to cure cholera: about nine tenths of those who sickened died.

18. In 1805 and '6, I lost not a patient. In 1807 I attended at Jericho, Vermont, where 20 persons had died under the care of the regular doctors.—Two lived who had utterly refused to take a particle of mineral medicine, they took none of any kind.

19. Every one who had taken medicine from the regular doctors died, whether they called it yellow fever, dysentary or black vomit. The color of the complaint did not make any odds. Out of 30 I relieved 29, at the risk of life and fortune: such were the circumstances in which I was placed.

20. In 1810 the disease changed color and got spotted, and was then called the spotted fever. The doctors went the same old round of medicine—round and round, like a horse in a cider-mill. They did not appear to have made any improvement, except those who added to the old list the sulphate of antimony. The remedy was about as fatal as the butchers knife, skillfully applied to the throat of a beast.

21. This grammar doctor lost sometimes 3, sometimes 4 or 5, or 6, and once at least 7 out of a family. I could not get to practice at all in that vicinity. I was most wantonly abused when I cured all who applied; and there the inhabitants flocked to the kill-all doctors like people crowding a mill in a dry time, when each one strives to have his turn first.

22. In 1816, many unusual spots were seen on the sun, as many will remember. Astronomers noticed those phenomena.

23. A cold, chilly state of the atmosphere prevailed through the season.—The disease received a new name.—The school doctors called it the cold plague. This was the best or truest name they had ever given it.

24. The same medicines were crow-

ded down the people's throats as before, the same that has since been given for cholera. Almost every one died who took the mineral medicines. Scarce one escaped to tell the effect the medicine had upon them. We were compelled to judge in these cases by the stark naked facts.

25. In one neighborhood, (Eastham) I distinctly recollect that more than 40 had died. Doctors from three counties had been attending. Their success was as bad as ever. The same weapons of death were employed as formerly and the lancet more liberally used.

26. In the space of two weeks, by an attentive and faithful use of my medicine, 33 out of 34 recovered, to the surprise and astonishment of many. I had no reformers to go beyond me in those days. The regular doctors were my leading opposers.

27. At the same time, at the same place, among those who were attended by the regular doctors, eleven out of twelve died: thus plainly proving that ~~it~~ it was the medicine and not the disease, the remedies used and not the disorder, that killed the people: they were led like sheep to the slaughter. These transactions occurred at Eastham, at Cape Cod, in Massachusetts, as referred to and confirmed by responsible testimony in my Narrative.

28. Let the friends of truth, for whose dear sake I now employ my pen, just pause a moment and consider, what is the difference what name we give the disease, or whether we give it any name or whether there be any disease to name or not? Death you see has been the result, where the medicine of the regular shops has been used. The facts speak for themselves, in a language that has been heard and felt by thousands.

29. The name of cholera, spasmodic cholera and Asiatic cholera are modern names for our epidemic disease. It began to get into use pretty extensively in this country in 1830.

30. At that period disease was worked up into a multitude of names, the names of medicine underwent a great revolution. Students had to learn new names to make wise men of themselves, even lawful doctors, with privilege to kill without being questioned.

31. Thus the credulity of the people



was imposed upon. The cholera cry rung from the pulpit and the press, from the priest and from the doctor. The echo rang far and wide.

33. The country was unusually healthy and continued so for many months, before all the machinery of the inquisition could be got up into complete operation.

34. The Boards of Health as they have been called, were established in our cities. These consisted of regular doctors or those under their immediate control.

35. Fifty thousand dollars were raised in the city of Boston and placed at their disposal to enable them to cleanse the city and give the cholera a decent reception.

36. While the busy note of preparation was humming in our ears, the cholera preventives were spreading.

37. Every dupe of these speculations was provided with some cholera nostrums or charm. Men, women and children were provided with a bag hung round their necks, containing the wonder-working amulet. The price rose from 75 cents to 16 dollars per lb. or 1 dollar per ounce.

38. Next in order in this age of wonders, discoveries and improvements, comes Dr. Warren's prescription: 1 gill of brandy and 200 drops of laudanum to be swallowed within a short given time, as a preventive, or as a remedy in case of attack, until a doctor could be obtained.

39. With such a dose down the neck of a patient, and a good dose of calomel, or even without it, I should expect that Dr. Death could quick dispatch his business without any medical advice.

40. In this way those arch imposters whom the law protecteth, have invented and vended their preventatives and remedies, dealing out the most deadly poisons, and filled their pockets well with the precious metal, gleaning from every one weak enough to become a dupe to their impositions.

41. By the spirit of this speculation, thousands have been frightened, until they imagined they were seized with some symptom resembling the deadly cholera, down went the preventives, and out goes the body of the cholera victim of cholera preventives.

41. No doubt remains on my mind, that more than one hundred thousand dollars have been paid by the people to purchase a dagger to plunge into their own bosoms.

42. Who that honestly views the record of facts here faithfully and fearlessly stated, can refrain from denouncing these political contrivances and medical speculations, as deeds of enormity and wickedness, deserving to be publicly censured and condemned by every honest man.

43. Who would not sooner risk himself with thunder, big guns, mad-dogs, and earthquakes, than swallow a gill of brandy, 200 drops of laudanum and 60 grains of calomel?

44. If to all this you add bleeding, syrringing your veins with saline composition, and a blister 10 inches square across your breast; who could doubt whether the remedy or the disease killed him.

45. May not this statement suffice to satisfy the mind of any man who has ever examined into the nature of things, and has any just conception of the cause of life and motion, or the cause of inaction and death.

46. The learned ignorance that has brought the world into this condition, is undoubtedly one of the greatest plagues that ever infested the earth.

47. Let us come to the point, for truth will never flinch: suppose then, that every adult in Columbus, or any Town or City on earth, should, at bed-time this night, take a gill of brandy and two hundred drops of laudanum, would not a large proportion of them be dead before morning, especially if they should all be attended by college doctors, repeating the dose?

48. In such a case we should at this season of alarm, excitement and speculation, hear the Board of Health reporting that half or two-thirds of the town or city had died of the cholera in one night.

49. If my memory be correct, I read an account of one of the eastern cities, of three thousand who died in one night, and of thirty thousand more who were taken sick.

50. Can it be thought an extravagant calculation that in a city of such immense population, three thousand should

have taken some popular cholera preventive and died?

51. Is it not natural to suppose that ten times as many, at such a season of terror and distress, should take the same remedy, if they only had a forlorn hope that swallowing the medicine would prevent their death. At such perilous seasons, such hopes may often be excited; down goes the deadly drug, for drowning men will catch at straws.

52. Could this idea be faithfully proclaimed in the streets of Orleans—could those facts and the reasonings thereon, be thundered in the ears of the devoted inhabitants of that ill-fated city, until they should know and understand the truth in relation to their condition, I am confident they would refuse the schoolmen's preventives, and grammar doctor's remedies. The devastating angel would sheath his sword, and the work of death make a solemn pause!!!

53. Would disease, reader, have ever appeared in such a mortal form in this country, had not the deadly name of cholera been introduced, and the preventives and the name and the remedies all traveled together?

54. Have not thousands suffered death by doctoring the name instead of the malady? The same remedies have followed up the name from Asia, thro' Europe to America, with equally destructive ravages, and should the same articles, or medicines be used for the name hunger, it would produce similar effects, without regard to name, sex or situation.

55. Thus have I given my reader some general outlines of the cause, or, to say the least of one of the causes, and I honestly think I may safely say, one of the principal causes, of the greatest plagues that ever visited mankind.

56. The honest reader will perhaps inquire, among the many forms of disease that have appeared in our country, are there none of these disordered states of men's bodies, that are not produced or occasioned by such remedies or poison medicine?

57. I answer yes. There is the same disease, though in a different form, that formerly appeared in our country, the scarlet fever, spotted fever, yellow fever, and cold plague are limbs

and members of the same body. If you will allow me to personify disease.

58. The doctrine of transmigration will apply much better to the various forms of disease in human bodies, much more philosophically than the Pythagorean doctrine of the transmigration of souls.

59. The yellow fever and dysentery of 1806, transmigrated into the spotted fever in 1810, into cold plague in 1816, and the terrifying ghost now walks a cholera spectre through the country.

60. The same disease, whatever livery it wears, the same demon, in whatever shape he appears, and the same poisons have been given for the relief and cure of the afflicted.

61. The unity of the disease is evident that some remedies that excite and support the powers of life, remove disease and restore health in the one case, has uniformly succeeded in all other cases when used in time and faithfully attended, as certain as the mineral poisons have made quick work, dispatched the patient and sent him to his grave.

62. The preceding summer, spring and fall, like the same seasons in the years 1806, '15 and '16, has been remarkable for the chilly state of the atmosphere and the deficiency of the summer crops, particularly Indian corn.

63. The peculiar mortality of some seasons, seems to be augmented by sudden and excessive transitions or fluctuations from heat to cold, and from cold to heat.

64. It will be readily recollected that the preceding winter commenced early in the fall of 1831. The air was cold and chilly until late in the season the last summer. The cold and chilly weather was protracted beyond the usual period—all nature appeared to feel the impression.

65. The heat of animal bodies were subject to the peculiar influences, these circumstances were calculated to produce, the natural or vital heat was diminished some degrees below the healthy point, considering the time of the year, when the wintery, cold and chilly blasts were intruding on the warmth of summer.

The heat of summer came on suddenly, and the weather became rapidly and intensely hot. The inward heat of men's bodies could not rise in proportion to the external heat, they had not time to take in, take up and absorb the caloric or heating principle from the atmospheric air they used for respiration.

The stream was too low, it fell nearly to a level with the degree of external heat. The prevalence of disease was the consequence. Equalization inwardly and outwardly would have in any case produced dissolution. This was the state of all who died—this was death!!!—It is, and will be death wherever it occurs.

It resembles a stream rising too fast for the fountain. It makes back water as it were on the wheels of animal life and motion, and they wallow and labor hard, when the stream rises almost to a level with the fountains, this must always be the case.

67. Somewhat similar to this is the physical condition of the animal body of man when the inward heat is diminished below the zero of that scale by which health is graduated, and the heat of the day or atmospheric air, about equal to that of the body, then the body suffers the inconvenience of cold, in proportion to the loss of inward heat, and when these become equal the body dies.

68. A patient approaching this condition, and nears it by the power of medicine, or force of disease will commonly turn yellow on the skin, and his complaint will get the name of yellow fever. The liver loses power to perform its functions, and the powers of life run down, outward heat having risen too high for the inward.

69. We will try and be explicit.—When the heat of the body is diminished inside, and the heat of the air about equal to that of the body, the person suffers the consequence of cold, in proportion to the loss of inward heat, and when they are equal or come to a level they die; at this ballance of *heat* outward and inward, spots will often appear on the skin; the standard or scale of life is correct in itself, but the ballance of the powers of life which are graduated by it

suffer derangement from their natural and regular order.

70. This form of disease, this state of the ballance of power between outward and inward cold, is called spotted fever, cold plague, &c. And *sirs*, cholera is the same thing, whether it be occasioned by a ballance of heat inside, reduced or reducing to an equilibrium, or equal degree outwardly, or of the outside, or whether it be a ballance of outward cold, ballanced with the inward.

71. Whenever heat and cold equilibrate or cold and heat come to a level inwardly and outwardly, or outwardly and inwardly, cessation of all animal warmth and motion ensues, these are proper evidences and attributes of life, yea, the essential properties of life itself. These constitute that in which animal life eminently consists, and without which, man's body does not, cannot live or be alive; when motion ceaseth and heat is extinct, this state is death.

72. It is immaterial in relation to the certain result, whether the ballance or equilibrations of power takes place by raising the stream to a level with the fountain, or by lowering the fountain to a level with the stream.

73. Take the ebbing and flowing of the tide waters of the sea for illustration: no matter whether it be high water slack, or low water slack, when it is slack it is slack, it is quiet, it does not flow one way nor another. This is an emblem of the state of death.

74. There is in the living, human animal body, a certain degree, circumstance or condition of heat, accompanied with motion which constitutes and distinguishes the living state. Without caloric in a moving state or capacity of mobility there is no animalization, or powers of animal life.

75. A state of inaction, and extinction or depression of that degree and condition of the caloric or principle of heat in the living system constitutes a state of death. This is a correct definition of death itself.

76. In the living state of warmth and action, when the animal machine is in operation, muscular motions, and the whole vascular system are excited, dilated, expanded, and the blood and all the circulating juices propelled along their respective channels. The air,

blood, and watery fluids are rarefied and expanded, and so dilate and stimulate their containing vessels, and maintain the power of life, or support and keep up the living state, or animalized condition of man's body,

76. A state of collapse in yellow fever, cold plague or cholera, is like the slack water condition of the ocean tide we just hinted at. In whatever form disease appears, or shape it wears, or whatever name the doctor may give it, it is all in reality the same thing—the same state or condition of the animal body.

78. The state of collapse is resembled in or by the condition of a drowning person, reduced to that state or degree of vital coolness and depression, that the fire or heat of life begins to be extinguished, or is going out, and action and all capacity of action beginning to cease.

79. In a drowning man as the heat begins to become partially extinct, there is so little of it remaining in the drowning body, the lungs collapse, they expand with difficulty. With such a depression of weight and cold upon them, they can no longer expand, no longer execute their regular functions.

80. In many cases of yellow fever, cold plague and cholera collapse, it is not in the power of medicine, or all the means of art to kindle and rouse the principle, or principles of heat and motion, sufficient to expand the lungs, and play the fountain pump of life with sufficient force to continue the state of animalization.

81. In such cases the walls of the lungs, the sides of the vessels through the vascular system collapse, or begin to close and fall together, like the sides of an exhausted wind bellows, or a bag emptied of its contents; action ceases and the patient dies, or rather more correctly we say, he is dead!

82. In all these cases of plague, fever or drowning, the state or condition of collapse is essentially the same, the fire, or heat, or power of life, heat and motion, outward and inward becoming equal, or approaching a state of equilibrium, in either and every case, the patient should be shielded from the weight and depression of a cold atmosphere with which he may be surrounded.

83. This may best be effected by the vapour bath, vulgarly called steaming, by placing the patient in a convenient box, or wrapping him in blankets, and applying the steam, as we steam doctors frequently and most commonly do.

Cases of extreme weakness, and cases of collapse are of this class. The patient may be placed in bed and hot stones or bricks, dipped in hot water or vinegar, all hot and steaming may be applied to the feet, hands, back and stomach or bowels at discretion.

85. In my introduction to the New Guide to health, I have remarked, and here request, that "In all cases where the heat of the body is so far exhausted, as not to be rekindled by using the medicine, and being shielded by a blanket from the surrounding air, or by being in bed, and chills or stupor attend the patient, then, *heat* applied by steaming becomes indispensably necessary." The heat by steam should always be raised *gradually not suddenly*. "If the outward heat be raised too suddenly so as to balance the inward," you will be disappointed, even when a prospect of success flatters your expectations. What I have written on the subject should be minutely and faithfully attended to.

86. This course should be persisted in until you can by warming, stimulating medicines, rouse, blow up, or kindle the latent spark of lingering life, arrest its departure, or kindle up heat enough to expand the lungs and keep up the motions of animalization.

87. These may be administered as prescribed in my New Guide, both inwardly by the mouth, or by injections well applied, which are almost always useful, often indispensable, and never injurious, if prudently administered.

88. In this way I have been successful—my course has been easy, safe and comfortable to the sick. No means have ever done as well within the present knowledge of man. So long as my system can sustain this character, in defiance of all opposition, whatever other discoveries I may make, I can find no reason for setting aside, reforming or improving my former discoveries. This would be to abandon a certainty for an uncertainty. This would be to abandon a good harbour when we

are safely anchored, and venturing on that wide, dark and stormy ocean, without pilot, helm or compass, where the bewildering philosophy of four thousand years, has driven millions on the tumultuous billows of learned ignorance, down to the land of silence in the shades of death.

89. Situated as I am, should I raise or join the cry of reformation, the wise and prudent patrons of the cause would certainly conclude I must be a mad man or a fool!!

90. Those worthy and respectable gentlemen among the regular faculty, who love the truth for truth's sake, will readily excuse the seeming severity of my remarks, which are intended only for those ignorant, stupid collegian members of the profession, who take all their knowledge upon trust, and condemn unheard and unexamined, whatever may contradict the prejudices of an erroneous education.

91. To the candid, honest, worthy enquirer after genuine knowledge, who will heartily receive the truth, the author tenders the sincere homage and respectful consideration, ever due, to judicious, impartial and upright citizens of every name and condition, wherever these presents may come greeting.

*From the Cincinnati National Republican,*

### CHOLERA, STEAM DOCTORS AND DR. DRAKE.

The compliment which Doctor Drake has paid to Steam Doctors, through the medium of the press, in admitting that many people affected with Cholera, who apply to them are cured, and that many of them are benevolent men, &c. I think is deserving of some reply; not merely for the sake of politeness and etiquette, but for the benefit of community.

But I cannot forget a piece of advice I once received from Dr. Drake, prefaced with the following, "You have many good remedies, but you are not Physicians." So I would say of him, "he has found out and recommends some of our good remedies, but he is not yet a Steam Doctor."

Although when compared with them

in point of theoretical and fashionable science, he may rise as far above the most of them as the clouds are above the earth, the scene will be exactly reversed when compared, in point of curative skill. Will not his own words make out this fact in some measure? He admits that many who apply to Steam Doctors are cured. Can it be said with truth that many (comparatively) affected with Cholera, who apply to learned Doctors, are cured. No one will affirm it. Besides this is a constrained acknowledgement, made with much reserve. Truth would justify him in saying much more. I should be far from imputing want of veracity to Dr. Drake; yet I verily believe, if he knew the whole truth, as well as his statements seem to imply that he does, his communications on the subject would carry a different complexion.

I would willingly enter into a calm and impartial investigation of the subject, if time would admit, and it could be communicated through the medium of the papers. But lest this should not find room, I must cut it short, after stating the following facts which are all important to mankind: First, that no individual, not superannuated by old age or intemperance, has passed from the premonitory stage into collapse, who has been under treatment according to my bill of directions. Second, I know of no case in which this treatment has been applied, during the first half hour of collapse, where it has failed of success. And it has succeeded in many cases when commenced at a much later period. Third, there are some hundreds who have furnished themselves with the medicines called for in my bill, and used them when attacked according to the directions; and I know of no one who has done so, who is not yet safe, and I think four hundred at least have been attacked and tested this fact.

Dr. Drake must excuse me for stating facts so uncomfortable to his position, that our system is only fit for the advanced stages of the disease when neither that or anything else can cure. I would wish to be complaisant where it is not too expensive; but in this case I must speak plainly. I will add a word further for the Dr.'s information,



as I profess to hold no secrets. He seems to think that "No. 6" is the great desideratum of the Thomsonian system, but I will inform him that it is a strong infusion of the component ingredients of "No. 6," with the addition of "No. 1," on which every thing depends, in extreme cases. This constitutes that wonderful magic No. 7, of which the Doctor himself so highly boasts, (referring to his introductory lecture last year,) and if ever he becomes acquainted with its intrinsic value, he will prize it above all he ever knew before. I have no objection to the Dr's. using "No. 6," or any other article with his patients, but if he will not induce mine to take calomel, opium, or camphor, I will engage not to interfere with his. I will conclude by remarking that the many who are cured of Cholera by this mode of treatment, will not, like the few cured by the fashionable mode, find themselves torn to pieces by calomel, stupified by opium, their nervous systems in everlasting tremors by the effects of camphor, nor their constitutions ruined by a course of treatment more dreadful in its consequences than the appalling disease with which we are afflicted.

WM. RIPLEY.

Cincinnati, Oct. 25.

ALBANY, DEC. 1, 1832.

*To the Editor of the Microscope.*

SIR—As your paper is the only independent one in this city, through which a person can defend himself from attacks made by that intemperate print called the Temperance Recorder, I send you the enclosed communication, which I trust you will give a conspicuous place in your columns.

My object is not to injure the temperance cause, for I believe it to be a good one; but in this city it has been shamefully abused, I think, by those who profess to be its most ardent friends, in their total disregard for the memory of the dead and of the feelings of the living.

JOHN THOMSON.

—  
TO THE PUBLIC.

On my return from New Hampshire,

I found that during my absence the Temperance Recorder had made its appearance in an extra, under the sanction of the Medical Staff, with a direct attack upon me—direct attack, I say, because in every case where a person died who had taken my medicine my name was mentioned, when physicians' names in other cases were not mentioned; and out of 836 deaths, this report made out that 22 had died out of about 5000 that had taken my medicine. Now, I wish, in reply to the Medical Staff and the conductors of the Temperance Recorder, to propose a few questions to be answered by any one who chooses, and a few questions which I will answer myself.

1. The Medical Staff, in their report of August 7th, stated that Thomson's medicine was a detriment to the public health, as it was given to prevent the cholera, which was wrong; and also stated that the physicians could cure almost every case in its first stages—but in a subsequent report it proved that they had lost over one third of their patients in this city, and in the city of New York over one half.

2. In another report, dated August 23d, it was stated, that the cholera was a disease "to be prevented and not cured!"

3. It was stated by physicians, that the intemperate were most liable to the disease, and when attacked were the most difficult to cure.

4. In the celebrated Temperance Report it is said, in substance, that the most of Thomson's patients were intemperate: of course, the greater the miracle to save any.

5. It is estimated by several respectable people, (some of whom belong to the Temperance Society, and of course are strictly Temperate) that Thompson has made about 6000 bottles of medicine, and that he sold it to about 5000 people; and according to this report he has lost 22 of those who took his medicine, several of whom used it after being given up by the other doctors to die.

6. Has Thompson killed his proportion, according to the report of the

physicians who have lost over one third of all reported.

7. Admitting that but 2500, or even 500, of the 5000 who took Thompson's medicine had the premonitory symptoms, and he lost 22, which practice shows the greatest success?

8. Thompson will pay \$100 apiece on the proof of every case he or his present student has lost over 3 during the prevalence of the cholera in this city, where they had the first attendance. How much will the members of the Medical Staff agree to pay for the proof of every case over 3 that they have lost?

9. How many thousands have been killed by experiments with brandy and opium, ice, bleeding, injections of saline water, &c. &c?

10. Why is not an inquiry made in relation to the deaths of those who died in this barbarous way? Because they died *according to law*. But the same practice, used by Thompson, would very justly make him a murderer.

11. As the Medical Staff say they take great pleasure in recommending this famous report to the public, I would ask how many of their own body are *strictly temperate*?

12. If some of the Executive Committee of the N. Y. S. T. S. stand wrongfully accused in the 2d ward, of furnishing means for, or countenancing directly or indirectly, the keeping open of a grog-shop for the purpose of acquiring votes to raise themselves to power, why do they not clear it up?

13. If it cannot be denied, would it not be a fair subject of calculation for the mathematicians of said society, to inform the public how many of our citizens got drunk, moderately boozy, and those for the first time, from the means thus furnished?

14. If Thompson's medicine is capsicum and brandy, and was so deleterious when used by him, how did the patients escape the baneful influence of the same capsicum and brandy when used for the same purpose by the physicians, as was the fact in this city?

15. From what source did the fabricators of this famous report acquire the information that about 50 had died who were not reported, under the care of irregular practitioners? Answer:

The calculation must have been made from the great number that died *legally*.

Solon, when asked by the king what would be the most successful and speedy course that a monarch could adopt to destroy his influence with the people and ruin his kingdom, answered, "Select a single individual as an object for destruction." The same as will be the destruction of the N. Y. S. T. S., if they pursue the same course.

### UNPARALLELED BARBARITY.

The subsequent tale of superstition, and horrific barbarity has gone the rounds of the periodical journals, that are most commonly circulated among the people.—But such a rare instance of superstition, ignorance and cruelty, we conceive to be entitled to a place in the RECORDER, that the recollection may survive the existence of the more ephemeral publications of the day.

*Unparalleled Barbarity.*—The Chester County (Pa.) Democrat, contains a horrid account of murder and incendiarism, equalling in enormity, if the details are void of exaggeration, the most barbarous cruelties practised among hostile savages. The victims are represented to have been an old man and his family, who had some months previously settled in the neighborhood, and the populace the instruments of this atrocious villainy. They suspected that these emigrants, though in perfect health, were under the influence of the epidemic that has scourged the Atlantic cities. A universal panic ensued. The dread of contagion prompted the neighbors to close the doors against the old man and his family, and to avoid all intercourse with them. They were soon driven from their dwelling, wandering about without shelter. A humble mechanic received the distressed family into his house, which was surrounded in the dead of night by a mob, who rushed in, murdered the owner, the old man and his family, and then fired the building, which was reduced to ashes. The writer of the account states that on the next day might be seen the "bones of the miserable victims blackened by the

smoke of the mouldering ruins, lying exposed to the public gaze." It is understood that the ringleaders have been arrested.—*Miner's Journal*.

*From the Maryland Republican.*

MR. HUGHS.—Having been so frequently applied to for the following receipt, until it has become troublesome to give copies of it, I request you to publish it.

JAMES BOYLE.

*To make Paint without Whitelead and Oil.*

2 quarts skimmed milk,  
2 ounces fresh slacked lime,  
5 pounds of whiting.

Put the lime into a stone ware vessel, pour upon it a sufficient quantity of milk to make a mixture resembling cream: the remainder of the milk is then to be added; and lastly, the whiting is to be crumbled, and spread on the surface of the fluid, in which it gradually sinks. At this period it must be well stirred in, or ground as you would other paint, and it is fit for use.—There may be added any coloring matter that suits the fancy.

It is to be applied in the same manner as other paint, and in a few hours it will become perfectly dry. Another coat may then be laid on, and so on, until the work is completed. This paint is of great tenacity and possesses a slight elasticity, which enables it to bear hard rubbing with a coarse woollen cloth, without being in the least degree injured. It has little or no smell when wet, and when dry is perfectly inodorous. It is not subject to be blackened by sulphurous or animal vapors of smoke. All which qualities give it a decided advantage over white lead.

The quantity above mentioned is sufficient for covering twenty-seven square yards with one coating.

*Physicians in Jerusalem.*

In the laws of Jerusalem (according to Godfrey of Bouillon) it is provided that "if any physician should fail to cure a slave, he shall be condemned to pay for the said slave, or to substitute another in his place; if a christian die under his hands, his goods shall be con-

fiscated, and he shall be hanged, having been first whipped, and conducted to the gallows with a urinal in his hand as a warning to others.

## THE RECORDER.

### COLUMBUS,

SATURDAY, DEC. 15, 1832.

The Convention of the Thomsonian Botanical Society of the United States, will convene at this town on Monday next. We apprehend from communications received, that, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather and badness of the roads, that it will be numerously and respectably attended. We have many important documents to lay before them. Doct. Thomson remains in town and will attend in person. They will probably continue their session for four or five days.—Thomsonians will have an opportunity of conversing with the author of the new system of medical practice, and receiving verbal instructions from the lips of the venerable founder of the Botanical institution to which they belong.

A rumour has reached us that the epidemic Cholera has commenced its ravages at Dayton in this state; but as we have not seen any intimation of the kind in any of our weekly Journals, we hope, and almost believe, that the report is without foundation, sufficient to excite any serious alarm. It appears however, that cold and frost which have always stayed the ravages of pestilence, have had but little, if any influence, in restraining the desolating march of the Cholera. The effects of winter on the Cholera in our climate are now to be tested. This is a subject entitled to a serious and cri-

tical investigation—that, from accurate observation, facts may be ascertained, sufficient to give full satisfaction to all candid and judicious enquirers, who wish the light of truth to shine clearly upon them.

### YELLOW FEVER.

A certain form of disease has acquired this name, from the simple circumstance, that in the advanced stage of the complaint, a yellow suffusion spreads over the *tunica adnata* of the eye, a yellowness of the skin appears, and sweat of a yellow color. These appearances do not uniformly attend the form of disease that has commonly been denominated yellow fever. We do not now think proper to descant extensively on the folly of pathological writers designating disease by the color of the eyes or skin, or any merely incidental circumstance. The form of disease we have alluded to, has in modern times appeared far more extensively in the West Indies, America and Europe, than at any former period. It has rarely been exceeded in its ravages of human life, by the most desolating plagues.

A writer of eminence observes, that “some have imagined that the fever, which has occasioned such devastation, is totally of a different nature from the yellow fever formerly met with in the West Indies and other tropical climates; but in my opinion, it seems to be the same, and that its only difference consists in its having prevailed as an epidemic, from the subsisting vitiated state of the atmosphere, and from its having from other concurring circumstances, acquired a degree of malignity and virulence unknown before. This is also our opinion in relation to cholera. The disease is radically the same, accompanied by some peculiarities that

have given it a distinction, that is rather nominal than real. In cholera patients there has been a great diversity of appearance—these have varied by predisposing causes, and different modes of treatment, &c. In relation to the yellow fever, so called, it has seldom occurred until the patient has been several days under medical treatment—in many cases the yellowness did not appear at all. We are inclined to believe that in many cases, the yellowness produced was occasioned by mercury.—Most of the regular faculty have dealt liberally in calomel—some used it more than others, but there were very few who did not use it, to say the least, in a moderate way. It is believed that in many instances the yellowness attendant on the febrile form of disease is to be considered as the effect of mercury; it then becomes a mercurial malady. It is known to all experienced practitioners of the mineral school, that a violent jaundice is often superinduced by the use of mercury. Instances of hepatic derangement occasioned by mercury are too numerous to be questioned by any man conversant with the subject.

Dr. Pinckard, who was a physician to the army in the West Indies, from having observed this fever exhibited such instability, and varied so incessantly in its character, that he could not discover any one symptom to be decidedly diagnostic, has been induced to offer it as his opinion, that the yellow fever, so called, is not a distinct or specific disease, but merely an aggravated degree of the common remittant or bilious fever of hot climates, rendered irregular in form, and augmented in malignity, from appearing in subjects unaccustomed to the climate.” Dr. Jackson, an eminent and intelligent

writer takes a similar view of the subject. He considers the yellow fever as only a mere "modification, or very high degree of the common fever of the country." We apprehend that yellow fever, spotted fever, scarlet fever, &c. are only modifications of an epidemic pestilence that has appeared to shew its influence in divers forms. Those apparently new forms of disease that have prevailed so mortally, we think in some degree, must be occasioned by the medical course pursued through the civilized world in modern days. On this point we remark,

1. In relation to yellow fever, the particular phenomenon from which it derives its name is not universal, nor accounted essential to its existence.

2. After the premonitory symptoms, and incipient stages of the complaint are passed, "the disease continuing to advance, the eyes become of a deep yellow, and the face and breast are tinged with the same hue;" consequently we infer, that in most cases this circumstance does not occur until the patient has been subjected to medical treatment.

3. For the last thirty years the mercurial practice has been carried to the most extravagant lengths, such as has distanced the presumption of all former periods.

4. Dr. Cox admits that in some particular habits, mercury produces an "exanthematous disease," that is an eruptive, morbid redness of the skin, "which some times proves fatal, well known by the name of *erythema*, or *eczema mercuriale*, and *hydrargyria*.

5. "Mercury," says Dr. Cox, "occasionally attacks the bowels and causes violent purging, even blood;" and who can doubt that in many, if not most instances, the black vomit, that occurred

in the last stages of mercurialized, yellow fever patients was occasioned by extravagant doses of calomel that were urged upon them, by the regular Faculty.

6. Dr. Cox observes, "at other times it is suddenly determined to the mouth and produces inflammation, ulceration and an excessive flow of saliva." "Sometimes also a morbid condition of the system occurs during a mercurial course and tends to a fatal issue."

7. N. Chapman, M. D. in his notice of the influence of mercury in the production of hepatic affections, observes, "that the inordinate use of this mineral, may in various ways derange the primæ viæ and liver, so as to produce the icterose affections, seems to me highly probable. Many years ago I saw an inveterate case of jaundice developed, during a protracted salivation for syphilis, which I attended in consultation with the late Professor Wistar—and within the last few months, I was consulted in a second case of it under the same circumstances, in neither of which instances was there any reason to suspect any previous disorder of the cholopoietic viscera. But doubting whether these were coincidences or effects, they attracted little attention at the time. More importance, however, do I now attach to them in this way, from having subsequently met with similar instances, reported by a distinguished writer. Cheyne, to whom I allude, states 'that it does not appear to be generally known, that mercurials actually produce jaundice, though it is a fact, of which I have seen, within the last two years, three striking examples.' The history of these cases agree in all essentials with that of those which occurred to myself.

"It is somewhat remarkable that this fact should not have been earlier applied to me, since for several years I have taught in my lectures that the extravagant employment of mercury by many of our practitioners, in autumnal fever, and other diseases, must be assigned as one of the causes for the ge-



neral prevalence of chronic hepatic affections in some portions of our country. Even drachm doses of calomel and copious inunctions, repeated several times in the day, constitute the practice, as I have understood, of the ultra mercurialists—and, though others do not urge it so far, there is abundant reason to suspect the too common abuse of this remedy.

More than any agent whatever, has mercury the power of exciting the action of the liver, and it is a law of our nature that all high excitement is followed by a correspondent degree of debility. Adverting to the unparalleled application of the cases mentioned, it seems to be no unreasonable supposition that the hepatic apparatus, thus overstimulated, should fall into a collapse, and in this state of exhaustion, languor shall take place in the portal circulation, productive of congestion, eventuating in induration or more serious disorganization. Exactly in this way, do miasmata, high temperature, and the habitual consumption of ardent spirits, operate to the same effect. Called upon to explain the *modus agendi* of these baleful influences, such a course of reasoning would probably, at least, be instituted by most of the profession."

From a review of the whole subject, we are brought to this conclusion, that mercury is a powerful agent; that it particularly induces morbid affections of the liver, and an extensive functional derangement may be superinduced by the use of it; that some of the most striking and alarming varieties that have appeared in the varied forms of modern disease, probably have been measurably occasioned, multiplied and augmented by the mercurial practice that has been every where adopted and extravagantly pursued.

The cholera has been noted to be specially mortal among the intemperate; and the morbid derangement that so frequently occurs in the liver and stomach of such persons, has given rise to an

extensive use of calomel as the grand Catholicon.

But the sons of dissipation, while they have been severely handled by the cholera, have not found it as certainly mortal as the lascivious libertines and demireps, whose venereal maladies have subjected them to an excessive use of mercury; for the regular faculty appear to be ignorant of any other remedy for syphilitic complaints which we are confident are as often rendered formidable by mercurial, as by syphilitic poisons, and we are not alone in the opinion.

Thomsonians are accused of having but one remedy for disease, because the number of their medicines are so few, and lobelia so frequently used, but Dr. Cox assures us that "mercury has been tortured into a greater variety of forms than any other article of the *materia medica*," and we well know that the regular faculty in general, prescribe calomel for every form of disease; to the infant of a day or to the hoary headed sire. No age or sex or condition of the patient appear to exempt him from the hazard of using this pernicious, dangerous article. The venders of this instrument of carnage and death are protected from the charge of crime in their adventurous usages, but the Botanical Physician in the administration of innocent, inoffensive and efficient remedies, that remove all removeable forms of disease, and restore health and vigor to the sick, are liable to the penalties of a law, the design of which has been to establish a privileged order, that they might engross the privilege of attending on and administering medicine to the sick, merely that they might secure to themselves the emoluments arising from their practice.

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ERRATA.—P. 131, 6th line from bottom, [paragraph 71, for *forever* read *moreover*.—P. 132, paragraph 73, last sentence, for *let* read *lest*.—P. 135, sec. 61, after *evident* read "*from this circumstance*."

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense."

Vol. I. COLUMBUS, DEC. 29, 1832. No. 7.

## PROCEEDINGS

Of the Thomsonian Botanical Convention of the United States, convened at Columbus, Dec. 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1832.

Dec. 17th, 1832. The delegates assembled at the Baptist meeting house, front street, at 9 o'clock A. M. The following notice was then read by one of the senior members, having first called the Convention to order, viz:

### UNITED STATES BOTANIC CONVENTION.

At the request of a great number of the agents of Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, and others friendly to the Thomsonian System of Practice in Medicine; by the recommendation of the general Agents in Ohio, and the approbation of Dr. Thomson, himself, a United States Botanic Convention will be held at Columbus, Ohio, on the third MONDAY of December next, and the succeeding days until the business of the Convention shall be accomplished; at which time and place all the Friendly Botanic Societies throughout the United States, are requested to send at their own expense, a delegate or delegates to represent them in said Convention. And where it is not convenient to send delegates, or, on account of distance, it would be too expensive, they are requested to send by letter, post paid, directed to Messrs Pike, Platt & Co. Columbus, Ohio, all such information as to the success of the practice, in what cases, and whether in any which were supposed curable, it has failed; what improvements, if any have been supposed to be made, and the test of such improvements; the various certificates which may have been published, printed copies sent as above; and generally all such knowledge as will be useful to be brought before said Convention; the whole object being to establish the System on a firm and permanent basis; to raise it above suspicion; to convince the world by its salutary efficacy, of its practical utility; to carry its knowledge, if pos-

sible into every family; and to cause the whole community to understand that they no more need what is called *learning* and *skill*, which too often is little less nor more than *learned quackery*, to teach them how to restore their body to health when sick, than they do to preserve its strength by proper food when in health. To this end the doings of this Convention will be made public, and all concerned may rest assured that no pains will be spared to give them all the information that forty years experience, yea, a long life spent in the service, can possibly furnish. It is expected that Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON will attend in person. His sons, Drs. Cyrus and John Thomson of Geddes and Albany, N. Y. and Abner Kneeland, of Boston Mass. have also been respectfully and especially invited to attend. It will probably be the last visit that Dr. Thomson, Senior, will ever make into the Western country.

✍ Editors friendly to the Thomsonian Botanic Practice in medicine, are respectfully requested to give the above one insertion in their respective papers.

Boston, September 17th, 1832.

One of the senior members again calling the attention of the CONVENTION, they proceeded to organize. On motion, Dr. THOMAS HERSEY was unanimously elected President, and Dr. SAMUEL ROBINSON Secretary.

The following communication from Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON was then read—

Gentlemen, Delegates of the Thomsonian Botanical Society of the U. States.

The design of calling this Convention has already been measurably made known, through the medium of a circular, and a number of our newspaper editors, who have been so obliging as to give the notice an insertion in their papers. The number of these have been comparatively few. It is unpleasant and even painful, to remark, that so many presses, though otherwise respectably conducted, have hitherto refused, and still refuse to give publicity to

those interesting facts, which we feel a special anxiety to present to the community, in fact to the whole civilized world, that all may know and understand the things that appertain to health and life; those discoveries that in their nature and progress involve the dearest interests of suffering humanity.—Through the vehicle of the press we wish to approach the widow and the fatherless in their afflictions, direct them to the means of health and life, and warn them to keep unspotted by the spotted fever, unyellowed by yellow fever, and unpoisoned by the mineral practice.

There appears to be an extensive combination of influences existing among the regular faculty and their interested friends and coadjutors, to retard by every possible means of misrepresentation, contradiction, deception, and legal coercion, to impair public confidence in the Thomsonian system, and retard the progress of the great and good cause, in which we have been long and successfully engaged.

Comparatively few editors of newspapers have manifested that discernment and fearless independence of mind, which the honest patrons of truth should ever delight in. The spirit of candour, integrity and benevolence in full exercise, would have given a noble impulse to their minds, and would have induced them to have given this meeting and its leading objects the greatest possible publicity.

Our design of communicating the most useful intelligence in our power, supporting our communications by substantial, unequivocal testimonials, and pouring the rain of our benevolence through the wide world, ought not to be regarded with a jealous, grudging, envious eye.

We wish you, gentlemen, on the present emergency, to take such measures and pursue a course best calculated to rouse a spirit of universal enquiry, that the attention of our fellow citizens may be drawn to a deep and solemn consideration of their real situation.

Our designs are liberal and benevolent; it is a duty incumbent on you who have tested the facts in relation to our system, to devise ways and means, and

exercise every manly, honorable effort to spread your benevolent feelings and ingenuous purposes before a discerning community. In this way the people may have privilege more effectually to learn and more highly to appreciate their prerogatives, and be induced to give them every rational protection and support. You gentlemen, are a tribunal to which we make a temporary appeal, for you have long had the law of the system, and the testimony of its successfulness before you. Through you we appeal to the world as far as the world has enjoyed the knowledge of the truth, or shall hereafter receive the requisite information, wherever men shall be found willing to exercise righteous and impartial judgement.

The outlines, and only the outlines of the labors, sufferings and persecutions of the original patentee, have long since been made known to those who have availed themselves of the legal privilege of using the patent remedies. Many others have read the narrative with the best intentions and kindest of human feelings, and have not been backward to express the tender sympathy and unfeigned commiseration which the perusal has occasioned.

Those only who resided in the immediate vicinity where those nefarious works of darkness, malignity and cruelty were transacted, can possibly have an adequate conception of the numerous, persevering and outrageous abuses heaped upon the unfortunate victim of the vindictive displeasure of those sons of belial, those interested, confederated machinations, those extensive influential and literary combinations who were seeking the ruin of an individual. What crime had he committed? What could occasion the tremendous noise, smoke, fire and opposition of a patented regular faculty? We answer, his only offence has been, that rising from the obscurity of private life, destitute of scholastic education, limited in his circumstances, limited in his acquaintances, his friends few, and pretended friends faithless; under all these disadvantages and discouragements, discoveries have been made in the healing art, remedies for those maladies or sicknesses that flesh and blood are heir

to, that has rivaled the skill and eclipsed the glory of medical men aspiring to pre-eminence in the temple of fame.

The regular medical faculty, which should have been the first to have diffused the salutary tidings and sustained the cause, have, from the beginning, made the most violent, unreasonable and disgraceful opposition. They have lavished their execrations, and engaged legislators to enact laws to effect the destruction of the Botanic system, and to nullify the patent laws of the United States.

Some who have not known the extent and severity of those persecutions and sufferings, and the enormous expenditures resulting from their unrelenting and implacable barbarities, have some times intimated that PATENT RIGHTS, were selling at too high a price. Could the true friends of our system be made fully acquainted with all the facts and circumstances connected with this systematical opposition, we have been called to endure, we are confident we should never hear a solitary murmur fall from their generous lips. Inspired by love of truth, and an honest devotion to the public weal, they would rise with honest indignation, superior to all penurious suggestions, and stand steadfast and immovable to support the system that has cost the founder multiplied thousands of dollars to sustain and defend.

It is not connatural with the common dispositions of men, highly to prize that which costs them little or nothing. We were prompted by humanity to put the RIGHTS low at the beginning, but had they been put at an hundred dollars instead of twenty, they would have been holden in higher estimation by those who are now our opposers. Those individuals who, from various causes, we have been induced to treat with peculiar liberality, hoping perhaps, to secure their influence, or prompted by gratitude, or partial respect and esteem, have generally proved themselves to be our slackest friends, who have treated our discoveries with neglect, and some times poured contempt upon our system and all our labored efforts to extend its benefits to man.

This is a portrait of human nature as we find it. The truth of our obser-

vations must be obvious to men of discernment and reflection, and we do not hesitate to say, that our friends will best sustain the rising reputation of the system, by endeavouring to reason explicitly and judiciously on the subject—that the society may every where stand unwavering and immutable, nor entertain a distant thought that we would abuse the patronage that has bouyed us up amidst ten thousand perils, storms and dangers, and stoop to a level with those who have endeavored to purloin our skill, that they might consume their stolen property in cherishing their lusts, fostering their pride and abusing their benefactor.

You perceive gentlemen, that the cause has suffered not only by the daring and hardened opposition of open and avowed enemies, who have felt an interest in attempting to effect its overthrow, but has sustained very material injury by the indiscretion and bad management of its professed or pretended friends—many of these wavering, dissembling and meddlesome individuals, aspiring to secure to themselves a great name and pecuniary emoluments, have announced to the world that they have invented, originated or discovered new and important remedies for the removal of disease. They have mixed up and amalgamated extraneous and often times deleterious and poisonous drugs with my prescriptions, just to escape the penalties of the law, for the invasion of my rights, and intrusions of my legal privileges. Then, they have endeavored, as far as they have dared, when they have imagined it would best subserve their dishonorable and dishonest purposes, to give out their prescriptions, and challenge public confidence under the sanction of my name. When they have thought that it would answer a better purpose, they have wantonly turned about and condemned my system altogether, and set themselves up as reformers, and boasted of their improvements in medical practice—censured me as a stupid ignoramus, as an immoral man, hardly entitled to the protection of the civil law. We are acquainted with much of this insidious libelous manouevering.

Such proceedings are calculated to bring my system into disrepute with those who through want of disposition or lack of opportunity never go beyond the sooty bilingsgate of these scandalising gentry to obtain information. The object of such impostors is to effect my fall, that they may rise upon the ruins, and secure to themselves a "golden harvest." The most efficient measures should be taken to enlighten the public mind, and as far as possible correct the abuses heaped upon the uninformed and unsuspecting by such speculative impositions.

Those who will persist in these unreasonable and wretched hostilities, who will not be reclaimed, or give some satisfactory account of their conduct should be every where exposed, as we may have opportunity. We have ever been inclined to peace, and know that the disposition has a benediction attending it by the quietude it imparts to the conscience: But for this—long before this period, we should have made a public example of some of these pitiful offenders, against the laws of honor and honesty, and the wholesome statutes of the country.

While I am making these suggestions I would carefully assure you, I wish not to be understood as intimating that no auxillary means can be attached to the remedies I have already prescribed. It will be well not to shut our eyes against any useful truth. If any really useful discoveries have been or can be made, promising any benefit or advantage for the removal of disease—any thing more simple, safe and certain, than what I have heretofore prescribed, or that can be depended on with equal confidence, or with any tolerable degree of confidence, in cases of emergency, and where other and better remedies can not be obtained, who in the exercise of his sober senses would not encourage the occasional resort to such means? This would be neither to abandon nor reform, but honestly to sustain the system: But for a mixed confused practice, or remedies administered under the idea of different indications of cure, afford a very unpromising prospect of success, and I shall never be willing in the smallest degree to tax my system with

any responsibilities connected with such unwarrantable deviations from first principles, and my established rules of practice. From whatever source any advantageous information may or can arise that will give facility to the growing prospects of botanical practice, and enable us to proceed more successfully; let facts, but not conjectures, let facts alone be cordially received and acknowledged with gratitude. Never forget the old adage, "look before you leap." We are willing to examine all pretensions to improvements with the utmost candour and impartiality. We wish to investigate and judge of every thing by its own intrinsic worth. We have no pride that will not stoop to receive the truth, when supported by responsible unequivocal testimony.

Proceeding thus cautiously, we shall always be able to ascertain with a tolerable degree of precision; whether these competitors for fame & emolument, are entitled to the confidence they claim—whether their discoveries are entitled to be reported and sustained as a valuable acquisition to the general stock of information appertaining to the botanic practice, as already possessed by the society, which you have the honor to represent. A very few, who possess family RIGHTS, employ any Regular Physician, afterwards, and none who understand its utility perfectly, and the important principles upon which the system rests, can hesitate to use their utmost efforts to diffuse the knowledge as far and wide as the nature of the case will rationally and legally admit.

For the time being, active enterprising agents, may in some instances, realise some pecuniary advantages; but they will have the more noble and sublime satisfaction of doing much good. While they remunerate themselves, and reward the labors of the Patentee, they will be diffusing invaluable blessings on mankind.

In the issue, the sale of rights will become a pecuniary advantage to the purchasers, redeeming them from long and tedious sicknesses, furnishing them with cheap, safe and efficacious remedies, and procuring exemption from the enormous tax imposed by the re-



gular medical faculty, upon the unfortunate victims of their mineral operations. It will prevent men from depending implicitly on the opinions of others, whose interest it may be to mislead them. It will furnish powerful inducements to intelligent, active minds, to think and act for themselves, and take that elevated stand of mental independence, to which the candid, enlightened and judicious, ought ever to aspire.

I would advise you to bear in mind the impropriety, absurdity and cruelty of investing a board of health with inquisitorial powers, to drag men and women from their families and friends into hospitals, a kind of bastiles that have been prepared in some of our cities for the reception of the sick. Fifty thousand dollars in Boston, were placed at their disposal.

Cholera preventives were prepared—whether men were sick of real disease, or by the use of preventives, they were liable to be cast into those receptacles of the deluded and sickening multitude, there exposed to become subjects of the dissecting knife, when dead if not before.

Shall any man, or any class of men, have the authority to stamp any sudden indisposition of unusual appearance, with the name of the cholera, and by merely pointing at them, perhaps have them suddenly and irretrievably incarcerated in those dungeons of pretended hospitality, to gratify the pride, and fill the pockets of a greedy, avaricious, domineering Faculty?

On the subject of the press and the insolent, abusive restrictions laid upon it by literary coalitions, we can only express our deep regret that the people should be held in such abject bondage and pay so extravagantly for the whip by which they are lashed.

Editors are frequently censured and abused for shewing a little honorable independence and honesty in publishing any thing favorable to the botanic cause.

The prosperity of the Thomsonian system, is esteemed a disparagement to the regular faculty—though there are many of that class, who heartily receive, and with energy sustain our

system, and are high and honorable exceptions to these complainings, the bare mention of whose names would do honor to any cause.

Divested of all interested feelings from a candid and impartial view of the matter, in all its bearings, we think that editors of news papers ought to view themselves bound by the laws of honor, justice and propriety, to give truth fair play; and as guardians and sentinels in community—stand fearlessly in its defence. A few more noble hearted, high minded, independent, conspicuous individuals, setting the example, would find the timorous, querimonious, lagging editors, waking up and following their laudable example, and the consciousness of having done righteously—will afford an honest man an abundant remuneration. We would seriously deprecate every combination, whether by Clergymen, Lawyers or Physicians, that have any thing of a monopolising tendency. We have felt the prowess of their united efforts. Hard must be his fate who cannot have privilege to complain. Waving all remarks, that may wound any sectarian partialities that may predominate in any heart, we shall only say, that a literary coalition has endeavoured to impede our progress, and truth has triumphed over all opposition. We will, for the present, narrow the field of strife to our controversy with the regular faculty. At the same time, if any of the learned professions interfere with our privileges, it is hoped we shall be able to make our stand with dignity and success, against every species of usurpation. It is of importance that our Legislators should have their attention respectfully invited to examine more carefully the rights and privileges of the people.

If they were better acquainted with the salutary effect of the Botanic System of practice, they would give ample protection to the botanic practitioner, and never deprive him of his rights, by sustaining laws impairing contracts. It was by spreading a host of unquestionable testimony before the Legislature of New York, that the repeal of their unrighteous, unconstitutional law has been effected. Those laws were brought into being by the influence of

the regular Faculty—they have been put down by the undeniably superior successfulness of the Botanic Physicians. A similar course has been attended with similar results in the Legislature of Alabama, at their present session.

It is not with a view to the advancement of personal interest, or the interest of my numerous and respectable agents, that I make these suggestions: These can all work their way in defiance of all opposition. It is for these rights, the unalienable rights of the people that we so zealously contend. That course that will confer the greatest benefit upon the people, is the course we wish to pursue. It is precisely the course we would recommend to your faithful patronage.

We would propose a thorough reform in medical practice; Let the physicians agree for a reasonable stipend to preserve or restore the health of an individual or family, for a given time, say one year—contract to pay a certain stipulated sum for every day the patient or patients might necessarily lose, by reason of sickness—and to prevent the possibility of fraud or deception—let the contract be sufficiently guarded on both sides—then the people would pay for health and not for sickness. The patients must be required to use the means prescribed in the Thomsonian system of practice, and when they refuse the use of means, they should not be allowed or entitled to receive any remuneration for lost time. I know you are all ready to say, "we would be willing to make such contracts in our respective places of abode."

This would at once call out, introduce and make general the best mode of practice. Families would soon be found willing to take most of the responsibility on themselves. The salaries of the physicians would become low; for the people being enlightened—physicians would have but little to do.

Thus gentlemen, I have endeavored to direct your attention to the most important items of business, that may in a greater or less degree, require your deliberate investigation. Other matters may come before you of equal im-

portance, to which we have made no direct or immediate reference.

I shall cordially co-operate with you in every possible way and measure, that may give effect and permanency to the system. Let our minds be free and open to conviction, and our zeal be according to knowledge. It is with peculiar pleasure, that, in looking about me, I behold so large and respectable a representation of the friends of the Thomsonian system.

The privilege and consolation of such an interview, I shall not, probably, ever again enjoy. I wish to inspire the most perfect harmony and unanimity in all your deliberations. When my hoary head lies low in dust, may the cause survive the ruins of the grave. The hope of leaving you in harmony and peace, pressing forward as one man in the great pursuit, shall cheer my mortal hour. These benevolent desires animate my mind, support me in my trials, and to transfuse such views and feelings to posterity is the best legacy I can bequeath to the world, when I shall retire behind the curtain that veils all futurity from mortal eyes.

**SAMUEL THOMSON.**

After receiving the preceding message from Dr. Thompson, which was read by the President, the Convention resolved that a committee should be appointed to examine the communication and report such replication as they might deem appropriate, Whereupon

Dr. Godfrey Meyer, Dr. P. G. Young, Dr. C. E. Porter, Dr. James M. Davis, Dr. Hugh Barns, Dr. R. Talbot, Dr. T. M'Aboy, and Dr. W. Sears were appointed to be that committee.

On motion, Resolved, That a committee of arrangements be appointed to examine all books, papers, letters, communications and documents of a general nature, relating to the business of the Convention, which they may now have in possession, or with which they shall become acquainted, or to which they may have access, and report thereon tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Whereupon Dr. Wilson Thompson, Dr. M. W. M'Craw, J. B. Tibbitts, Dr. Joshua Hart, Dr. S. Robinson and Dr. John

Dickerson were appointed to be this committee.

On motion, Resolved, That it is incumbent on the members of the convention to give every possible facility to this committee, by furnishing them with such books, papers and documents as they may individually possess, that they may consider was intended to be embraced in the preceding resolution.

On motion, the Convention adjourned until Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock.

Tuesday morning, 9 o'clock, Dec. 18th.—The Convention being again convened and called to order, the Committee appointed to examine Dr. Samuel Thomson's communication reported as follows:

The committee to whom was confided the service of preparing an answer to the communication of Dr. Samuel Thomson to the Botanical convention of the United States now in session, are happy in having this opportunity to express their unfeigned sympathies in all the sufferings and persecutions of the venerable founder of the new Botanic practice of medicine in the U. States. We most heartily congratulate him on the successful extension of his system through many of the most populous sections of this American Union. Our towns and cities are every where receiving his instructions with peculiar confidence. Lawyers, Divines, and physicians of respectable character, are flocking in multitudes to the Thomsonian standard. We hail this as a propitious season, an era in the annals of our country calling loudly for the most cordial congratulations of the friends and lovers of useful knowledge. A wide field is opening before them, and they will delight in the astonishing accession of patronage that is bearing down all opposition and establishing the new system beyond the control of its enemies.

We feel the fullest conviction of the truth and importance of the system, and of our duty to sustain and defend the same in defiance of the interested hostility of the regular faculty, or the more ignorant opposition of the credulous dupes, who are led by the artful and designing, to close their eyes against the light, and inadvertantly trample on their own rights and privileges.

We have long witnessed the unrea-

sonable restrictions laid upon the press by the coalition and dictation of some influential and resolute opposers. We have no hesitancy in presenting this report, in giving the solemn pledge of our own unreserved determination, and of the determination of the Convention, and of the whole friendly Botanical Society, to use every honorable and lawful effort to obviate these difficulties, and to diffuse all useful intelligence in relation to the subject. The convention will undoubtedly deliberate carefully on the variety of subjects propounded by Dr. Thomson for consideration.

In defending the Thomsonian system from innovation, we are sensible that we are standing for the defence of certain radical principles, which in their nature are immutable and are not subjects of reformation. It is our business to sustain and defend the Thomsonian System as predicated on these principles. In relation to the Botanical practice laid down in the Thomsonian Guide, we admit that auxiliary means may be called to our aid—in these we may progress in our discoveries, but the success that has attended a discreet use of the remedies he has prescribed, lead us to the conclusion that substitutes and auxiliaries should be cautiously admitted, lest we let go a certain remedy for one of doubtful character. In a matter of such moment, we should be guarded on every hand, and not receive any thing on the simple testimony of an interested individual. We go for facts. The Thomsonian scheme of practice claims our patronage upon the highest human authority; the combined unhesitating testimony of two hundred thousand responsible witnesses are obtainable to vindicate its unrivaled successfulness. We have thousands of instances of the successfulness of the Thomsonian practice, where the ablest practitioners of the mineral school have failed, but where is the instance of any case of disease, where Thomsonian remedies have been thoroughly tested without success, that the regular faculty have stepped in and effected a cure.—Could a solitary instance be produced against the thousands of instances to balance against it, it would be of no avail with a reasonable man.

The Thomsonian system appears to

us to be, founded on a rock—it is not based on conjectures and dreams of deep plodding speculations, but like the Newtonian system of astronomy, it must stand or fall with the Heavens—“shine with the stars and with their arch expand.” To talk of reformation is a gratuitous labor of super-erogation.

In conclusion, we shall only say, that the impressive manner in which the Doctor has closed his address has not been examined without effect.

While we rejoice to meet him face to face, and sit together in fraternal council, or rather listening like children to receive the instructions of a Father, or like Paul at the feet of Gamaliel, the thought that most of us shall see his face no more, rolls back the tide of overwhelming sorrow on our hearts; we can not easily restrain that expression of grief that steals moistly to our eyes.

Our best wishes attend him through the thorny journey of life, escort him through death's dark vale to the consummation of the highest reward, reserved in the long vista of future possibilities, for the most distinguished benefactors of mankind.

GODFREY MEYER,  
THOMAS McABOY,  
P. G. YOUNG,  
WARD SEARS,  
JAMES M. DAVIS,  
C. B. PORTER,  
HUGH BARNES,  
R. TALBOT.

The committee for the examination of books, papers, documents &c. reported that they had made progress in their examination, but were under the necessity of soliciting the indulgence of the convention, to allow further time;—their request was conceded and they retired accordingly.

Dr. J. B. Craig arrived from Alabama, produced the testimonials of his delegation, and was admitted to a seat.

Dr. Ezra Summers, of Medina co. O. arrived, was examined and admitted to a seat.

Dr. Robert Ekey arrived, after due enquiries, was admitted to a seat.

The following resolutions, with the preamble preceding, were offered, and after full investigation were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, this convention has been advised, that, a number of petitions sustained by numerous and respectable signatures, will be presented to the Legislature of the state of Ohio, at their present session, soliciting a repeal of the medical law, as it now exists, and that it may be so modified, that all contracts entered into for services rendered or to be rendered by botanical practitioners, may be binding on the contracting parties respectively, therefore,

*Resolved*, I. That the 11th sec. of an Act to incorporate medical societies, passed Feb. 24th 1824, is a law impairing the validity of contracts, and is a direct infraction and notorious violation of the 16th sec. of the 8th article of the constitution of the state of Ohio, which provides, that, “No *ex post facto* law, nor any law *impairing the validity of contracts*, shall ever be made.”

*Resolved*, II. That the honorable Legislature of the state of Alabama, is entitled to the grateful acknowledgments, and the unfeigned homage of the most public expression of the highly respectful consideration of this convention, and their constituents, for the magnanimity, liberality, honesty and independence of sentiment and conduct, manifested in a recent act of the present session, “authorising the botanic doctors of the Thomsonian system to collect by law, a reasonable compensation for their services”—particularly for that judicious provision of said law, by which, those practising on this system, shall be bound to adhere to it, and that such practitioners, by a departure from the system, by bleeding and blistering, or by the internal use of calomel, antimony, arsenic and other mineral poisons, or any of the preparations thereof; shall forfeit the privileges the law has intended otherwise to confer.

*Resolved*, III. That it is the opinion of this convention, that any Thomsonian botanical practitioner, who shall depart from the Thomsonian system, in prescribing and using such things, as remedies for disease, as proscribed in the preceding resolution; should be considered as having forfeited the confidence and patronage of the friendly botanical society of the United States.

**Resolved, IV.** That this convention most devoutly wish that the Legislature of Ohio, may be actuated by the ingenuous sentiments and patriotic enactments of the state of Alabama, and be induced to adopt similar measures in their legislative proceedings, with this additional proviso, "That the regular medical faculty, who have so long and violently persecuted the Thomsonians, and privately and publicly censured and condemned their botanical remedies as poisonous and dangerous means, should be prohibited by law, from the use of Lobelia, African Cayenne and No. 6, or any combination or preparation thereof, or any other remedy for disease, that is strictly Thomsonian."

On motion, the convention adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M.

Tuesday, 2 o'clock, P. M. The convention again convened.

The committee to whom was referred the examination of books, papers, documents &c. reported their proceedings as follows, viz.

The committee have had a laborious and highly responsible task to perform. They have paid as faithful attention to the numerous documents submitted to their investigation; as their abilities and opportunity would admit. They rest with confidence, on the candour of the convention—conscious, that however deficient the report may appear; considering the number and importance of the communications, that have passed under their review, they believe they will be able to convince every member of this meeting, that they have endeavoured to discharge their duty.

Your committee recommend that documents No. 1 and 2 be examined by the convention, with attention, as they conceive the contents, at least in part, ought to be laid before the public, as an expressive example of the powerful, reckless and incorrigible opposition the Thomsonian system of practice has sustained, by having to encounter the dogmas of the schools, and the groveling superstitions of the vulgar and illiterate world.

The committee would remark, concerning the documents marked, No. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, & 14, that they are interesting papers—

that have been incidentally acted upon, either partially or entirely, in your preceding deliberations; and they have considered their contents of such a nature, that they may, with special propriety, be committed to the disposal of the senior Editor of the Thomsonian Recorder, to make such selections for publication at any time, as may appear most conducive to the general interest of the Thomsonian cause. In any case of doubt, we would refer him to PIKE, PLATT & Co. and cheerfully would we confide in their joint counsel, knowing their hearty devotedness to the cause.

Your committee having carefully and candidly examined the second volume of Horton Howard's improved system of botanic medicine. They cannot forbear expressing something of that surprise which they have felt in investigating the real merits of his high pretensions. We will not suggest that he has not introduced some simples and even compounds, that in some cases, may very possibly, prove, when judiciously administered, occasionally useful auxiliaries to a "THOMSONIAN CURSE." Your committee have no hesitation in making the assertion, that he has introduced so many articles and recipes—simples and compounds, inconsistent with and contrary to the Thomsonian system of practice, which they conceive to be poisonous drugs, and dangerous to the health and life of those who might be induced to take them; that viewing the whole work, they conceive it an unsafe and hazardous experiment on the credulity of the people. Also, they discover an evident and unquestionable invasion of Thomson's rights. Instead of being a genuine unsophisticated improvement of Thomson's system, it is undeniably calculated to bewilder and lead the practitioner, into deep labyrinths of difficulty and the most fatal errors in practice.—This is our opinion.

Your committee are not insensible, that clergymen, lawyers and physicians have been wickedly combined to persecute Dr. Thomson: But as his system of practice has no more natural connection with theological dogmas and civil jurisprudence, than Pike's



system of arithmetic—Morse's Geography, or Euclid's Elements; your committee would respectfully suggest, that all sarcasm against any religious profession, should be stricken from the pages of the New Guide to health, and that all controversy be embraced in the Narrative, or some other publication, where his reflections would not inflict a wound in the bosom of any friend.

Your committee have used the precaution to make such references as will be distinctly understood and respectfully submit their report to the inspection and all needful corrections, of the convention, whose proceedings, we apprehend, will be conducted impartially and faithfully, in a manner best calculated to subserve the cause of truth and equity, in relation to all those serious and interesting points, that may constitute the subject matter of their conventional deliberations. Signed,

JOSHUA HART,	} Committee, &c.
SAMUEL ROBINSON,	
MILLER W. M'CRAW,	
WILSON THOMSON,	
J. P. TIBBITTS,	

On motion, it was resolved that the report of the committee, as made above, should be received and entered on the records of the proceedings of the convention.

On motion, the document marked No. 1, was enquired after and found to be a pamphlet of more than an hundred pages, entitled the "Trial of Francis Burk, before Baltimore City court, on an indictment for man-slaughter, by administering to Benjamin M. Heselip, certain Thomsonian remedies."

On motion, the following communication was read.

*The Thomsonians of the city of Baltimore, to the United State's Botanic Convention to be held at Columbus.*

DEAR FRIENDS; We received a circular from Boston, informing us of the intention of the Thomsonians to hold a Convention in Columbus, Ohio, in December of the present year, and inviting us to send delegates, for the purpose of hearing the success of the practice, ascertaining whether any improvements have been made, or whether it has failed in any instance that was supposed to

be curable, &c. &c. This circular was received by us with great pleasure, and its object most heartily concurred in by every member of our society, as being at once the most happy expedient for permanently establishing the system in the minds of the community, and bringing its great and peculiar blessings home to every citizen of the Republic. We have long wished for some means or opportunity of presenting the system to the public, in a more imposing manner than through the medium of the Agents, or the instrumentality of individual right-holders, as the prejudices of the community, and the opposition of the Faculty has always been able partially to retard its progress, however well directed their efforts. But we rejoice at the prospect which now opens to our view, in the fulfilment of the great object of our desires, because we feel assured that this Convention will command the attention of the whole nation, and that it will speak in language which none of our adversaries shall be able either to gainsay or resist. In compliance with the request of the circular, a meeting was held at the Bazaar, Harrison st, on the evening of the 19th ult. Godfrey Meyer was called to the Chair, and E. N. Sweeny appointed Secretary, when it was unanimously resolved, to send delegates to the Convention to represent us therein, and give such information as may be deemed useful and proper. Godfrey Meyer and Ward Sears were elected delegates to the Convention. The Thomsonian system was introduced into Baltimore in Feb. 1821, consisting at that time of about twelve pages of printed matter, and although the medicines were given in several instances with good success, but little was done to advance the practice until the Narrative and new Guide to Health were received. In the winter of 1825 and 1826 several meetings were held for the purpose of establishing a society here, and several communications passed between the society and Dr. Thomson, in which he informed them that owing to his engagements, he could not attend in person that season, but that Dr. Locke would come, which he did in December of that year. He was then acting as the agent of Dr. Thomson. Although we had succeeded

in forming a society, we labored under many disadvantages; the prejudices of the people, and the law of the state forbidding any one from practising medicine without a license, under a severe penalty, the want of confidence in the medicine, and above all, experienced practitioners to administer them, operated seriously against its more rapid spread in the commencement, but still its progress has been steady, though gradual; and the difficulties which we have labored under, we now look upon as nearly overcome; popular prejudice is fast giving way, and many persons who once treated us with contempt, and could not so much as give us a hearing, are now willing to admit that we are tolerably rational men, only differing in opinion from them. There are now in the city of Baltimore about two hundred persons holding family rights, in addition to which, we have the pleasure to inform you that a number of persons scattered throughout the state are in possession of the system, and doing much to advance it, both by public and private practice. Six of our number in this city are regularly engaged in public practice. From all the information which we have been able to obtain, the medicine has been given to several thousand persons, in every variety of form, and stage of disease, many of which were desperate cases, and not a few have been successfully treated by us, who were pronounced absolutely beyond the reach of medicine by the Medical Faculty; and from all that we have seen and experienced of the efficacy of the medicines ourselves, we have no reason to doubt their competency in any case of disease, which can possibly occur within the reach of medicine, where administered according to Dr. Thomson's directions, and his system faithfully adhered to.

We now come to the most interesting part of our history, namely: the period of the prevalence of the Cholera in this City. When this fell destroyer was making his approaches to us, and all eyes were turned to the means of prevention and cure, we naturally thought that now was the favorable opportunity for us to give the public a fair test of the value of our remedies. Several of us engaged in the practice with prompt-

ness, to the great disadvantage of our private business, and so great was our success, and so strong the impression in our favor, made upon the minds of several respectable citizens, who had witnessed the effect of the medicines, that we were emboldened to make application to the Mayor and City Council for an Hospital, in order that every one might know what we were doing. Our petition was not granted; for the reasons on which it was refused we refer you to our printed address to our fellow citizens, which will be furnished to the Convention by our delegates. Disappointed in this, and determined not to let so favorable an opportunity slip whilst the public mind was prepared for it. A meeting was called, and a standing committee appointed to prepare and publish in the papers, a list of all persons who were treated by the Thomsonians, whether the result was favorable or not. Just at this time the 37th No. of Harper's Family Library was published, containing Dr. Abercrombie's famous piece on the uncertainty of medicine, as practiced by the Faculty. This piece pleased the society so much, and was considered so well calculated to shake the confidence of the public in the Doctors, by giving them a correct idea of the state of the science from an unquestionable source, that 5000 copies of it were ordered to be printed at the expense of the society, and gratuitously distributed throughout the city.

The success of our practice in cholera cases alarmed the Doctors exceedingly, and it was hinted to us from several quarters, that they would embrace the first opportunity that offered to put us down. Some were even open and bold in their opposition, and actually were incautious enough to cry out "the craft is in danger." It was not long before a case occurred that fully answered their purposes, as they thought, in the person of B. M. Haslip, a man of intemperate habits, who was attacked by cholera on the morning of the 17th Sept. and died the same day. Several anonymous communications were sent to one of the Coroners, to hold a Jury of Inquest over the body, which he did, and after a most labored post mortem examination, by five physicians, on which the Jury were kept nearly the whole night, they re-

turned a verdict of death by unintentional, but improper administration of the Thomsonian remedies. Dr. M. L. Knapp, who was called in to see the patient, in the panic which seized his friends, when the disease took an unfavorable turn, published a highly colored account of the case, in one of the newspapers, giving a frightful description of a course of Thomsonian medicine, comparing the power of the steam kettle which was used, to the boiler of an Engine of one horse power. This communication had a surprising effect upon the public mind, and almost entirely stopped the practice for a few days, although its statements were so contrary to fact, and so palpably absurd, that many intelligent persons (not Thomsonians,) said without hesitation, that from his own account of the matter, he had certainly killed the man. The piece however, was ably replied to by two of the members of our society. The case came in course before the Grand Jury, who found a bill of indictment against Francis Burke as principal, and Wm. Bell as accessory to the death of B. M. Haslip. A special court was held for their trial, and after a most laborious and interesting investigation, during the most of which time the Court house was crowded, they were acquitted.—The trial was frequently interrupted by the indisposition of one of the Jury. The court was engaged fifteen days from first to last, during which period it sat nine times. The report of the trial, certificates of cures, address to the public &c. &c. will be handed to you by our delegates, and any other information which may be deemed useful to the Convention, will be verbally given by them.

We have thus, dear friends, as briefly as we could, given you an outline of the rise, progress, and present state of the system in the city of Baltimore. During the trial of Mr. Burke, the merits of the system were fully entered into by our opponents, in order to expose our ignorance of anatomical science, and if possible to bring us into contempt. But their efforts have entirely failed, and the evil recoiled upon their own heads. Our witnesses generally acquitted themselves with credit, and the Doctors exposed their ignorance of

our remedies, to the satisfaction of every body, as you will fully perceive on reference to the notes of the trial. The confidence of the public has been so much increased by the clear and satisfactory testimony produced on the trial, that we are now about to petition the Legislature to alter the laws giving exclusive privileges to the Medical Faculty, in the fullest assurance of success; at least of having them so modified as to favor the Thomsonian practice.

From the progress which has now been made here in the knowledge of the system, and the great increase of confidence in it, which the public now feel, (for many persons, not right-holders, now prefer our practice decidedly, and in case of sickness in their families, uniformly apply to a Thomsonian for assistance,) we think that nothing is wanting but a few popular lectures, delivered by an able hand, entirely to remove all prejudices, and make the city of Baltimore a powerful agent in the great work of Medical reformation.

MICHAEL LAMB, Chairman,  
E. N. SWEENEY, Secretary.  
Baltimore, Dec. 7th, 1832.

On motion, it was then resolved that this convention direct the preceding communication to be placed on the records of the convention, to be published with the minutes of their proceedings.

On motion, the convention resolved, that it was their duty individually and collectively to promote the sale and distribution of the publication entitled, "Trial of Francis Burk, &c." and to encourage others to do the same, that they may know its important contents, how ably the Thomsonian cause has sustained its reputation, amidst the fires of persecution, and that Mr BURK, an honest, intelligent, humane, enterprising, liberal minded, successful Botanic Practitioner, may thereby, be in some measure remunerated for the losses, sufferings and privations, it has been his hard fate to endure, to satiate the avarice of malignant men.

On motion, resolved that document marked No. 2, which is a pamphlet recently published by the Botanic medical society of Baltimore, entitled, "Extracts, from enquiries concerning

the intellectual powers, and the investigation of truth, on the uncertainty of medicine, by John Abercrombie, M. D. F. R. S. &c. be deposited on the records of this convention, to be published with the minutes of their proceedings.

SEE APPENDIX No. 1.

On motion, it was resolved that Pike, Platt, & Co. be requested to accommodate every member, who may wish to be supplied with a printed copy of the constitution of the Thomsonian friendly botanic society of the United States, and any other documents in their possession, necessary to give instruction and facility in the formation of branch societies, in the several sections of the United States, where they respectively belong, and where such societies have not yet been regularly organized.

On motion, the convention adjourned until to-morrow, (Wednesday,) 9 o'clock, A. M. Dec. 19th.

Wednesday morning, Dec. 19th, the convention met agreeably to adjournment.

In conformity to the resolution of the preceeding evening, Pike, Platt & Co. presented the printed copies of the constitution of the friendly botanic society—and they were accordingly distributed, as the resolution prescribes.

A long, interesting, but rather desultory conversation took place on the ways and means, best calculated to collect information, facilitate free and extensive communications, preserve the harmony and concentrate the energies of the society. Several members spoke with animation and effect, on several points embraced in the wide range of these deliberations.

On motion, Resolved that it is expedient, that a secretary of general correspondence be appointed to carry on a general correspondence with all the functionaries of the several branch societies of the friendly botanical societies in the United States, and such intelligent individuals as may be found able to contribute any thing to the general stock of information in relation to the botanic practice, or in what concerns the general interest of the socie-

ty, and to make communications and disclosures of such information through the medium of the Thomsonian Recorder, or by letters, or by any other means, that may best subserve the general design of the convention in making this appointment.

On motion, resolved that Dr. Thomas Hersey be appointed secretary of general correspondence, to carry the objects of this convention into effect, agreeably to the nature and design—the true intent and meaning of the immediately preceeding resolution. This resolution being unanimously adopted,

Dr. Hersey arose in his place and observed;

“That it was not without emotions of grateful sensibility that he addressed himself to the convention, and through this extensive and respectable deputation, to vast and numerous sections of this magnanimous nation, whose eyes had now began to be turned towards the rising glory of the botanic institution, with an intensity of interest: Even their deluded, infatuated, persecuting opponents, are sometimes compelly, indirectly and reluctantly to say, that there is something progressing among us, that is highly portentous of a great and univeasal revolution in medical practice. I feel” said he, “The importance and high responsibility devolving on me, in the honorable station, which I now occupy in presiding over your deliberations: but I conceive a much higher responsibility is attached to the station, which the liberal charity of your good opinion of my qualifications, has by the unanimous designation of this convention, now been allotted unto me. I shall endeavour by my best exertions, to secure the perpetuity of that confidence, which has directed your choice. This design shall animate my exertions. The correspondence you have contemplated, I am fully apprised, will embrace a range from the Atlantic to the Mississippi and from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to the shores of the Mobile. Confiding unreservedly in your ingenuous, undeviating co-operation, and zealous untiring zeal in the good cause, I shall expect to lean on the strong pillar of your patronage. With these impres-



sions and anticipations I shall enter on the arduous labors of the office. Allow me to tender to this convention, the unreserved assurance of my entire devotedness to the botanic system of practice. Influenced by the purest motives, with due reflection, I now consent to have my name enrolled on the records of this convention, as having accepted the appointment of SECRETARY of general correspondence, of the Thomsonian botanic society of the U. S.

On motion, it was resolved that the Secretary of general correspondence shall be exempt from all expense of postage, on letters directed to him relating to his official concerns, and that the members of the Society be, and that they are herein, and hereby instructed not to impose upon the Secretary any tax of that kind.

On motion, Resolved, That Dr. Samuel Robinson be requested to deliver a public Lecture at the State House, if it can be obtained for that purpose, on Thursday evening the 20th of Dec. inst. on the Thomsonian Botanic system of medicine.

On motion, Dr. Robinson having acceded to the invitation, Dr. P. G. Young was elected Assisting Secretary to the convention.

The following communication from the city of Troy, state of New York, having been received by the President, was laid before the Convention;

#### TO THE THOMSONIAN BOTANIC CONVENTION AT COLUMBUS OHIO,

MR. PRESIDENT: As a Thomsonian Practitioner, and agent for Dr. Samuel Thomson, I now give you a short account of the success of the medicines as I have observed them. For the last seven years I have been engaged in this practice—in that time I have administered medicines to probably *five thousand people*, over two hundred of which were laboring under a *confirmed consumption*, or at least so pronounced, seven eighths of that number have been *cured*, or so far released as to be comfortable. One fifth of the whole number were dispeptic's, all of which have been in a greater or less degree relieved, *in almost all the cases I have failed of*

curing, the failure was more owing to a want of confidence on the part of the patient than any other cause.

ALL the cases of *srofula* amounting to forty or fifty have been *radically cured*. In female complaints and complaints of children, the medicines have been truly successful, and in *midwifery* that branch where *mal-practice* is carried on under the greatest possible deception, *I have never failed* in about one hundred cases that I have attended in person, three of which were abandoned by the regulars; they were saved, both mothers and children. In the late visit of the Cholera to this city, I had the happiness to administer in seventy or eighty cases—strong marked cases of that disease, and in all but three succeeded in effecting a permanent *cure*, and those were past all relief before I saw them. And finally, in all the diseases that have come under my care, (and almost all those that were of a chronic nature had been confirmed by the use of poisonous drugs,) my only and sole dependence has been Dr. Thomson's System and *nothing else*. I received recently three numbers of the "Eclectic," published by Horton Howard; in the work I read an advertisement of Mr. Howard's of a new publication, with *vast* improvements in Medical Botany, with *large* additions &c.. From the above report you see the length of time I have used Dr. Thomson's System, and with what success. Now I am satisfied with *one* system, and if as Mr. Howard says, his *new plan* is more complicated, and the number of compounds increased, it shall meet *my decided disapprobation*, for the reason that Samuel Thomson's system is *simple*, and never fails of success when it has a fair trial. This then, is all I want, and it is all that the people want, viz: to be cured, and in the safest and simplest manner.

You are probably aware that a successful Thomsonian has to encounter much opposition, and persecution, from those whose interest we oppose. Such has been my fate; but with a steady and firm reliance on the goodness of this system, and the purity of the motives by which I have been actuated, *I have never been put down*, but can state for the encouragement of others, that th



Thomsonian system is now, in this vicinity gaining faster, and spreading wider than at any other preceding time. With this I enclose a pamphlet I published last season; you can make such use of it as you see fit. The *Key* with the other pamphlet, or old right, I could not find, but thought I would send out the right, as it is possible you have a *Key* in Dr. Thomson.

With a firm belief and hope that the time is not far distant when Dr. Samuel Thomson's Philosophical and gloriously successful System, will be made known from Maine to Georgia, and wherever inhabitants are found on this Globe.

I have the honor to be

Your Friend  
A. J. COFFIN.

Troy, Dec. 11, 1832.

*To the President and members of the United States Botanic Convention, convened at Columbus, Ohio:*

Mr. President, and Gentlemen:

Agreeable to a request given through the medium of a circular, by our venerable founder Samuel Thomson, we members of the Friendly Botanic Society, respectfully submit the following Report:—

That for the last three years the Thomsonian System has been very successfully administered in this city and vicinity, and although we were before unacquainted with its efficacy, and even strongly impressed by designing and interested practitioners against it, we can now assert with all the boldness that truth inspires, that we have tried the efficacy of this system—that we have obtained family rights, and are entirely and fully satisfied with the medicines and their effect in all diseases to which we are subject in this climate.

With a high sense of gratitude to the author of our System, we have the honor to be your sincere friends.

Signed in behalf of the Society.

P. BUCKLEY, Secretary.

Troy, Dec. 1, 1832.

On motion, Resolved, That this Convention are much gratified to hear of the honorable standing and progress of the Thomsonian practice, among the intelligent inhabitants of the populous

city of Troy, and that the very interesting communication of our Botanical friends in that place, be placed on the Records and published with the minutes of their proceedings.

The following letter was presented and read by the President, being a communication by Thomas Lapham Esq. of Poughkeepsie, New York, in behalf of the Botanic Society in that vicinity:

To Doctor Thomson and the delegates composing the United States Thomsonian convention:

We noticed some time since (in the Botanic Advocate) a call for a convention, composed of delegates from each branch society in the Union. After a consultation with some of the leading members of our society, it was thought advisable to give a written statement of our affairs, as it was not convenient, (on account of the distance and season of the year being unfavorable) to send a delegate.

The subscriber, accordingly, was instructed to give a brief statement of the rise, progress and present situation, of the Dutchess Botanic Medical Society.

Early in the summer of 1828, I called a meeting of those in the county who had purchased family rights; and we succeeded in forming ourselves into a society, although the number was small. A constitution was adopted, containing such rules and regulations, as was thought best calculated to produce good order, and harmony in the society, which, so far, has had the desired effect.

In the year 1829, the cause not prospering to our wish, and the conductors of public Journals, feeling unwilling to publish any thing in favor of the steam practice, (as it was called,) we concluded to purchase a printing establishment, and start a new paper, for the purpose of extending information to those who were yet ignorant of the principles of the Thomsonian practice. This paper had considerable effect, and has been the means of placing the society and their practitioners upon a better footing than could otherwise have been expected, in the same length of time.

Our meetings are held quarterly,

and the members are gradually increasing in numbers, though not rapidly. We progress, slow, but apparently sure. Our present number of members is between forty and fifty, who are chiefly farmers, and practice only in their own families, which may account in part for our tardy movements, when compared to its introduction in many other places. As it regards improvements, on Doctor Thomson's theory, or practice, we are under the necessity of acknowledging, that we are there, also, on the back ground. We do not consider ourselves qualified to make improvements to advantage, until we have sufficiently tested all that Doctor Thomson has done for the healing art, in order to find out what part most needs improvement. Most of us are pretty well satisfied with what the Doctor has done for us, and those that are not, can have their ends fully answered by procuring a copy of H. H.'s. valuable improvements, which I understand are already for sale.

Not more than seven or eight members have yet been authorized by the society to practice out of their own families, and some of them practice but very little. A large number of the inhabitants of this county, (at the present time) are friendly to the cause, and are willing, and even anxious to employ a Botanic Physician, when sick, but cannot always be accommodated on account of a scarcity of practitioners, which we shall endeavor to remedy as soon as possible.

Many particulars might be related concerning our affairs, that in my opinion would not be interesting to your body, and I have therefore omitted them. I have been careful about representing our prospects beyond what will bear the test of scrutiny; and perhaps some will think that I have hardly come up to the mark, in some respects; be this as it may, I am sure that the statement is not far from being correct.

Yours with esteem,  
THOS. LAPHAM.

N. B. I wish you all to bear in mind, that I remain firm, in the Thomsonian cause, Horton Howard's improvements notwithstanding.

T. L.

The subjoined communication to Platt & Co. dated Maysville Ky. Nov. 10th 1832, from Dr. Nathan. Hixson being handed to the President, was read as follows:

"We cannot properly say that we have any Thomsonian practitioner in the place, or its immediate vicinity, but I have introduced Thomsonian medicine in my own family, and among a number of my friends. I call myself but a novice in the healing art, yet I can boast without any thing of a foolish egotism, that I have really effected cures by Thomson's simple botanic remedies, within a few months past, that I have never known exceeded, or even equalled by the best practitioners among the popular faculty. I am measurably prepared to judge correctly from an intimate acquaintance, and an extensive course of nursing under their superintendence for twenty years. Diseases which I have known to be protracted many days, and frequently for weeks and months, by the boasting, graduated physicians, or under their care, I have seen them radically cured in a few hours: then, the patients, instead of lingering for a long season and moping about as though they had been poisoned half to death, scourged with fever sores, chronic, alias mercurial rheumatisms, liver complaints, coughs, dyspepsies and consumptions; would be cheerful, lively, active, strong and healthy.

These facts have made me an enthusiastic Thomsonian. Our whole community appear to be ripening fast for a general and extensive revolution in the medical department. Nine tenths of all my most intelligent and best informed friends, have lost confidence in the recently shamefully popular practice of bleeding, blistering and poisoning with antimony, mercury and ratsbane. All that appears necessary to turn men from darkness to light, from poison and death, to health and life, would be for a few able, judicious practitioners to come forward and settle among us. An intelligent, skilful, thoroughgoing man, would undoubtedly succeed in obtaining extensive patronage. He should be a man who would fearlessly meet the strong and ridiculous, contemptuous frowns of some of

the more selfish and would be, important faculty. A dignified course would conduct him to certain victory and could not fail to secure an extensive and lucrative practice. A manly, honorable opposition, he need not expect. The regular faculty would hold themselves so far above him, and look down with such contempt and derision, that he would find an open door into the hearts of the people, before they would condescend to make a serious and systematic stand against him, and then it would be too late. They are not apprised of the stern immutable fact, that the Thomsonian system of practice, for the removal of disease, as far surpasses the popular practice of the Regulars, as they themselves surpass Thomsonian practitioners in arrogance and presumption."

On motion, after hearing the preceding communication, Resolved that it be entered among the other documents, designed for publication, with the minutes of the proceedings of the convention.

The attention of the convention was next requested by the President, to a communication from Madison county, Alabama, from the pen of an intelligent member of the branch botanical society, at that place; which was read, as follows,

"Agreeably to the request of the venerable founder of the botanic system of practice, Dr. Samuel Thomson; our society proceeded on the 24th of Nov. instant [1832,] to nominate and appoint, two of our body to attend, in our behalf, the convention to be holden at Columbus, commencing on the 17th of Dec. next.

The good wishes of the society for the success of the cause, has induced them, under existing circumstances, to appoint me to address you, [Pike, Platt & Co.] and through you to communicate such information as has been deemed proper and necessary, to be reduced to writing, to be laid before the convention. Circumstances beyond our control, will probably preclude the possibility of our being represented from the branch society in this section of the state.

The Thomsonian practice was introduced here, some four or five years

ago, by an individual who located himself in our county. He was authorized to sell rights and medicine. This gentleman succeeded in forming a society in an adjoining county, and from these beginnings the society has increased to its present numerical standing. The Faculty, as is usual, began to level their artillery. While with a respectful unobtrusive step, the Botanic Practitioners, pursued the noiseless tenor of their peaceful way, the Mineral Doctors took the alarm—considered they had to encounter a formidable foe; began to entrench and fortify behind the strong barricade of the civil law. They established a medical board, and under severe penalties, prohibited any person from administering medicine without a license from the board. As in all cases, in our free country, where such unwholesome laws have existed, the Botanic Physicians pursued their own course, uninfluenced by opposition, unawed by fear. Their success, in defiance of persecution, soon began to attract the attention of the first characters in our country. A number of these gentlemen of the higher order in society, men of leisure, reflection, science and property, fell in with this excellent system, and bought family rights. This state of things produced a volley from the small arms of the light troops and scouting parties of the regular Faculty. Squibs and burlesque, were the missile weapons used by these pedantic assailants. Some retorts were given, some repellent answers made by the insulted botanic practitioners and some of their freaky jokes, and boorish insolence, were passed unheeded by. There has been no instance of civil prosecution commenced against any of the Thomsonian physicians in this state, that has ever come to our knowledge. We think the system is so well established, and so deeply rooted in the good opinion of this enlightened people, that we have no fears of any one daring to make the attempt, to enforce the law against any man of our order. This branch of the botanic society, was constituted last March. It now contains 34 members in respectable standing, beside a number who hold family rights and have not found it suited to their convenience.

nience to put in their lot for full membership in this institution.

We have drawn up a petition to the Legislature for the repeal of the obnoxious laws that now exist on the subject of medical practice. The people are now in a state of high agitation on the subject. In our county, where we have about twenty-seven hundred voters, more than a thousand have given their names to the petition to put down the high-handed law. Many more might have been obtained, if greater diligence had been used. In this there is no hanging out of false colors. These facts show the present standing of the Botanic cause in its genuine light.

With all these favorable flattering prospects, we labor under some serious inconveniences and discouragements.—The society is chiefly composed of respectable farmers, scattered on their respective plantations, possessing family rights, but not disposed to enter extensively into practice. To speak explicitly, I would say in general terms, we want some bold, intrepid, and intelligent practitioners among us, who have a good understanding of the Thomsonian System, both in theory and practice, to lead the way and give instruction to others. We need a suitable depository well supplied with medicine of the best quality, for such alone can be depended on." "There are none of our society that practice farther than the New Guide to Health directs. They have effected cures by following this book, that has baffled the skill of the most experienced practitioners among the regular faculty.

I am, gentlemen, with sentiments of respect, yours &c.

STEPHEN DEBOW.

On motion, Resolved, That the preceding letter be deposited on the records of the Convention, and an abstract of the most important matter contained therein, be published with the minutes of their proceedings.

A communication from Ithamar Hibbard Esq. dated Fulton, Hamilton co. Ohio, was then received and being read, the following abstract was ordered to be printed with the minutes, &c.

"I have been acquainted with the Thomsonian system of medical practice

for about seven years. From my earliest knowledge, I have been thoroughly convinced of its superiority over the old practice—I am convinced by personal experience. I was once under medical treatment about eight months—I was twice supposed to be dying; once by an extravagant use of peruvian bark, and by taking more than 9 tea spoonfuls of laudanum in the short space of six hours: besides, I was in an high state of salivation by calomel at the same time. These were means doctorally prescribed by some of our most skillful and learned Physicians, at least they were accounted such.

I had not an opportunity of obtaining a RIGOR until about the time the Cholera made its appearance in Cincinnati: since that time I have had ample opportunity of testing the power and efficacy of Botanic remedies, in removing that disease. I had five cases in my own family, all of which have terminated favorably. I administered in seven or eight cases in the immediate neighborhood with equal success, some of whom had been given up by the faculty. I have not employed any but Thomsonian Physicians in my family since I became acquainted with the Thomsonian system, nor shall I employ any other. I have received from the society in Cincinnati a licence to practice. I am so fully persuaded of the mortal consequences of the mineral practice, especially in violent attacks of acute forms of disease, and its utter inefficiency and frequent ultimate fatality in many chronic affections, that these alarming results ought to be exposed to the world.

I am so fully convinced of the safety, utility, efficacy and certainty of Thomsonian remedies, that I believe it a duty incumbent on me and others acquainted with the facts, to use every honorable effort to diffuse the knowledge as far as may be consistent with the RIGHTS of Dr. Thomson. \* \* \*

I am far from idolizing any man, but what does not the world owe to Doctor Thomson? Ask hundreds of the citizens of Cincinnati what they owe to him for the protection received against the Cholera, and for his remedies during their recent visitation with that destructive malady. Ask thousands of the citizens of the United States what they

owe to his discoveries, and what would be their answer? Would they not with one heart and one voice reply—"We owe him our lives?" What can give greater satisfaction to any person, not totally destitute of human feelings, than to know he has it in his power, in all ordinary cases to render immediate and efficient aid to his suffering fellow creatures, by healing their sicknesses, binding up the broken hearted, imparting consolation to the afflicted, and confidence to the despairing.

The time for coercing opinions and binding the consciences of men, has passed away in these United States: they will think and act for themselves. That mental darkness that has so long clouded the human mind is fast retiring—the radiating light of truth is breaking forth. The Thomsonian principles of medical practice must and will prevail. Wherever his remedies have been fairly tested, irresistible conviction has seized the mind. Information is all that is wanted to free the people from the shackles of imposition. The mineral system must and will most surely fall before the Botanical practice. I am confident it will fall to rise no more."

The following communications were received and ordered to be disposed of as the preceding communications, and to be published with the minutes.

L. A letter from Dr. Amos S. Davis, dated Manchester, Factory Point, Nov. 20th, 1832, to the Thomsonian Botanic Convention of the U. S.

"Agreeably to request, I cheerfully proceed to give some brief account of the benefits derived to my family and others, from the Thomsonian practice. My wife had been laboring under a consumptive habit for sixteen years. We employed eleven physicians to little purpose—life was despaired of. A year ago last August I was induced to purchase a *RIGHT*—I was faithful in the use of the remedies he has prescribed—she gained her health so as to be able to take a journey of 120 miles—she labored considerably after her return. By a sudden exposure to cold and excessive fatigue, she was confined from labor for three months. The neighbors thought it was not in the power of medicine to raise her again. The use of the Thom-

sonian medicine again restored her to health, to the astonishment of all BEHOLDERS. She appears now to be as free from disease as she ever was. Various instances of severe and alarming sickness has occurred in the family, among the children, who have all been relieved by the same means. I bought the *RIGHT* Sept. 5th 1831. We have not made use of any other medicine since that time. I have administered to more than seventy, and have not failed of a cure, where I have conceived the system had any thing like a fair trial. I subjoin a certificate from Mrs. Wedge and confirmed by Mr. Wedge, which may be thought interesting:

Manchester, Oct. 6. 1832.

This certifies that in the winter of 1826, I was siezed with a severe pain in my head, stomach and bones; such was the severity of the pain, that I was confined to my bed, injured in my sight, had a severe cough and raised a large quantity of blood by the week together. I had nervous fits and the lock jaw so violent that it was sometimes thought that I would never breathe again. I had my eyes closed, and have been left for dead several times. I was attended by four eminent physicians, but could not get any relief.

We then moved from Sunderland to Manchester.—I was carried in a bed secluded from the air, for I was so filled with mercury and other poisonous drugs, that I could not endure the air. We then applied to four other physicians,—they pronounced my complaint the consumption, and my case incurable. When my distress was very great, and I unable for business, was despairing of relief,—we heard of Dr. Davis, the Thomsonian physician, and my husband called him to my assistance.—With much reluctance on the 8th of July, when I was helpless as an infant and no one thought I could live many days, and my grave clothes prepared, he undertook my case, to help me if he could. ☞ Before he left me the next day, I was relieved from pain,—and well, compared with what I had been for three months before. He visited me for four weeks, then I was conveyed on a bed, in a waggon to his house where he gave medical attendance for two



weeks, then I returned having recovered surprisingly.—In three weeks I was able to go through the labor of the family, washing, ironing my clothes &c. I am still gaining strength, and ascribe my recovery to the use of Thomsonian medicine.

MARY WEDGE,

The above statement made by my wife, I certify to be correct.

BENJAMIN WEDGE.

Manchester, March, 1832.

Mary Brown, 11 years of age, sick, as was supposed, of a quick consumption, was attended by the regular Physicians, who did not appear to do any thing to help her. We then applied to Dr. Davis. The first course of Thomsonian medicine helped her.—The second course helped her so much, she was able to go out in the open air, and very soon recovered good health.

Certified by the father of the young girl.

PARIS BROWN.

II. The following communication from our intelligent friend, Dr. H. CHANOEY, was received and being read, it was directed to be disposed of in the same manner, as the preceding documents. It was originally directed to Pike, Platt & Co. but designed to be laid before the convention.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec, 7, 1832.

Messrs. Pike, Platt & Co.

Gentlemen: I received yesterday a packet containing four numbers of the "Thomsonian Recorder."—It is a periodical much needed; and from the specimen now before me, if I may be allowed to decide, is the best of the kind ever published in this country. From the very able manner in which it appears to be conducted, the Thomsonian physician may reasonably expect his proportionate dividend of the combined talent and useful knowledge, which from time to time will be disseminated through the columns of an excellent "Recorder." I trust we may expect, in this publication, a vehicle to convey our own sentiments, as well as a defence against the steel-fanged vultures of the day. Hitherto, sirs, we have endured the classical slang of the calomel grinders, without being allowed

to reply, unless we give freehold security to an enormous amount, that the printer shall neither be burnt, flogged, starved, or poisoned to death for printing the truth.

Heaven forbid that your press should ever be trammelled, so long as it has truth for its basis. The cause, sirs, in which you are engaged, is a just and holy cause. I am, and ever have been, from my earliest acquaintance with the Thomsonian system, an enthusiast in the cause. The theory and system of practice laid down in the New Guide to Health, must stand unrivaled:—it carries conviction irresistibly to every mind that has not fiend-like, steeled itself against the truth.

I must claim the privilege, sirs, to trouble you occasionally with a squib for the old scalpelists. Though I shall be found a rude writer, I will endeavor to be as chaste as is possible for one born among stumps and trees, educated for the sea, and brought up on the ocean

Upwards of three years since, I commenced the practice of medicine in this city, by the Thomsonian plan and mode of treatment. I learned that there were some in the city and liberties, who had been formed into a society some twelve or fourteen years previous. In truth they were nearly all dispersed, and the few that remained had almost forgotten that there was any reliance upon the system—some, indeed, had either mislaid or lost their books, and others had sold them. Indeed, sirs, it was but a day of Thomsonian star-light: every thing that was said must be whispered, and the pretended advocates were reined down to the stupor of Gibraltar Donkeys. On my first perusal of the "Guide to Health," all fears of prevailing epidemics vanished like a shooting star; and being naturally ambitious, and sometimes too hasty, I ventured in a small way upon the practice, without any other authority than a family right. My progress has been onward, till I have had the boldness, or rather insolence, to beard the lion in his den—to plant the standard of Thomsonian truth within cannon-shot of the University of Pennsylvania.—Fearless of consequences, I have extended the practice to the

distance of forty miles in different directions—sold about forty rights within two years, and have succeeded in winning over to the good cause, about two hundred persons, among whom I practice, and to whom I am in the habit of selling such medicines as they cannot themselves procure in their common walks.—Practice is extending. As it respects reform, or improving Dr. Thomson's System, sirs, allow me to make one more singular remark as a parallel. I once heard a very well bred clergyman say, on being asked how he liked Mr. B's sermons—"I would not rise in the pulpit and attempt to preach after him for a thousand dollars." So I think of Dr. Thomson's System and practice.

Now, sirs, whether you will put me down as one of your agents or not, I shall get as many subscribers as I can to the Recorder, and send you the amount of my own and as many other subscriptions as I can obtain, with my next communication, which you may soon see.

The Thomsonian system and practice sirs, has nothing to fear from the old M. D.'s or scalpelists, or from a few bad clauses in our statute laws; the greatest difficulty it has ever met, is the shameful timidity and cowardice of its own votaries.

Our city, at present, swarms with students in medicine. A few months, and some hundreds of those shark-shaped gentry will be let loose upon the city and country, with legal authority to kill according to rule.—Yes, and while these legal gentlemen are pluming themselves with a view to acquire an air of distinction and consequence in this sickly world, thousands are dying around them. Yes, while the pale-faced disciple of Esculapius, and his more grave, retired and blood-stained professor, are brooding over the dim midnight lamp, dreaming over the many names of diseases, I see their patients sinking around them, under the paralyzing sweep of one prevailing disease. Thrice have I witnessed the appalling plagues of small-pox and yellow fever in the city of New York—Once in the interior of the State have I witnessed the awful consequences, and wide spread of an irresistible plague, in form of spotted

fever. 'Twas in that frowning and ever memorable winter of 1811, when that terrible destroyer played his diabolical freaks upon the inhabitants of Ontario county, prostrating hundreds in his march. Ah! 'twas then I saw the medical gentlemen employed in vain!—'twas then this boastful hero, out of the very impossibilities of the coward physicians, cut a perilous harvest with his sword!—'Twas then I beheld them retreating before this fell destroyer, leaving entire neighborhoods to perish in the war of the contending elements. Thus it is, when the pestiferous blast, charged with direful consequences, sweeps its millions into eternity, and in its whirling mazes desolates a city, filling the church-yards with the gay and the high-born—when the meteors of calamity seem to flash along our mountains, blasting the herbage of every valley—when the poisonous blast, armed with ten thousand deaths, hurls its hundreds to the grave, threatening a defenceless populace with one wide destruction. 'Tis then we have a right to expect relief from those who have spent a life time to acquire a knowledge of disease and the healing art. But alas! alas! then it is we may expect the least. I think I now hear a faint voice from the infected districts—"Where are the Doctors?" Fled! fled for life: lancet, calomel, brimstone and quinine, leaving a whole district to be cured by the frost.

I have written but a preface to what I intended to write, but my limits admonish me.—If you find any thing within worth publishing, you are at liberty to make use of it *with* my name or *without* it; I am not ashamed of Thomsonianism, asleep or awake.

Be assured sirs, I would not send you back the four numbers for two dollars, so you may consider me a subscriber. We have no notes less than five dollars, or I should send you the amount at this time. If you please, send me the numbers for five subscribers at least, and I will forward you the amount.

Very respectfully, Sirs, &c

H. CHAUNCEY.

The following interesting communication was received and read, and ordered to be printed with the minutes.

"MOUNT PLEASANT, WASHINGTON  
COUNTY, DEC. 1, 1832.

Agreeably to appointment the Thomsonian botanic society convened—JOHN DAWSON was called to the chair, and JOHN A. M'BRIE appointed secretary: The following preamble and resolutions were offered by P. G. Young and unanimously adopted.

Whereas the Medical Faculty and those who are swayed by their influence, appear to have combined their efforts, to destroy the Thomsonian practice, and by falsehood and misrepresentation, deceiving many; we feel a deep interest for the welfare of mankind,—we lament the deplorable ignorance of many who oppose their own dearest earthly interests, and manifest a willingness to support the mineral practice, which has been such a fruitful source of human misery. From a broad view of the whole subject, we have adopted the following resolutions.

Resolved,

1st. That this society heartily approve of the Thomsonian system of medical practice, and feel ourselves bound from a convincing apprehension of incumbent duty, to make every laudable effort for the promotion and extension thereof.

Resolved,

2d. That this society will zealously co-operate with that numerous and respectable class of citizens, who are endeavouring to diffuse among all grades of civil society, the invaluable discoveries of the venerable founder of the botanic institution in these United States.

Resolved,

3d. That we will endeavour to correct and refute the numerous falsehoods put in circulation by interested and designing men, and to sustain the merited reputation of the botanic system, against the evil machinations of malignant, disengenuous persecutors.

Resolved,

4th. That agreeably to the provisions of the constitution of the society—we are set for a defence against innovation and corruption of every kind. We therefore will, discounte-

nance the confounding and amalgamating the mineral and botanical systems. We consider those who are guilty of such practices, as forfeiting their claims to membership in the friendly botanical society.

Resolved, 5th. That the system has more to fear from the abuses of those who would confound and mix the old and new practice, than from the hostility of open and avowed enemies.

Resolved, 6th. That it is incumbent on this society to manifest, on all occasions, the deep interest they feel for the welfare of mankind, by their efforts to diffuse the knowledge of the Thomsonian system of medical practice, so far as a due regard to the rights of the author may justify, and to prove themselves the friends of humanity, and the determined advocates of truth.

Resolved, 7th. That Dr. P. G. Young, be and he is hereby appointed a delegate to represent this branch of the botanic society in the United States Thomsonian botanical convention, to be holden at Columbus, state of Ohio, Dec. 17th 1832.

The following communication was then read and ordered to be published with the minutes of the proceedings of the convention.

Saugatuck, Con. Dec. 7, 1832.

To the respectable Convention of Thomsonian Botanists, to be holden in Columbus, Ohio, on the 17th inst.

Gentlemen:

We the undersigned, a Committee on the part of the Fairfield County Thomsonian Botanic Society, appointed to correspond with your respected body, beg leave to submit the following representation of the prosperity of our common cause in this section of the country.

We trust, gentlemen, that it will be gratifying to you to hear that a *Colony* of Thomsonians are planted in this boasted land of "steady habits"—that it is becoming firmly rooted—its branches expanding, indicative of a rich, salutary and abundant harvest.

A Society has recently been formed in this village, and although our number is small, yet the respectability and zeal of its members, give a tone to the cause which much disturbs the quietude of the *medica scientific*.

It would be gratifying to this committee, were they in possession of any new or useful discovery of sufficient importance to communicate to your intelligent body, but as yet, we are just emerging from the sombre clouds of medical delirium and credulity, which has so long enveloped the human mind, to the waste of life, property and health; nor have we presumed, or found occasion to travel out of the plain and faithfully trodden path of our worthy and respected preceptor Samuel Thomson, having found in his "Materia Medica" an antidote for every malady where the application of *scientific ignorance* or presumptuous experiments has not destroyed the constitution, and marred the machinery of nature with its mineral and deadly poisons.

A Thomsonian Botanic Physician has been in practice in this village for the last six months—and notwithstanding the tide of opposition and persecution he has received from the hands and tongues of the Faculty and their coadjutors, by unwearied exertions to pre-  
 judice the people, he has succeeded in introducing, and successfully testing the system in more than fifty respectable families in this vicinity, of which more than two hundred individuals have felt the salutary and renovating effects of Thomson's prescriptions,—and are ready to bear testimony from personal experience of the superior advantages of the "*quackery system*" of medicine over all others in use at the present day by those who claim the appellation of "*scientific*."

Should your respected body, in your researches make any new and useful discoveries which may be of service to us, we should feel grateful for such communications and disclosures as you will please to give us.

That your deliberations may result in ameliorating the condition of suffering humanity, is the fervent desire of the subscribing committee.

DAN'L BARNUM, Jr. }  
 STEPHENTREADWELL, } Ex'e.  
 SYLVESTER STEVENS, } Com.

The subjoined communication made by a member of the society, dated, South Carolina, Nov. 22, 1832, intended for the Recorder, was presented by the Editors, and when read, was ordered to be entered on the record of conventional proceedings for publication.

#### TO THE EDITORS OF THE RECORDER.

GENTLEMEN: Your paper is read with much pleasure by every genuine Thomsonian. It cannot fail to do much for the advancement of the system, and gladden the hearts of thousands by spreading the glad tidings of his invaluable discoveries: But the Medical Faculty of this state, are so powerfully braced by the strong arm of the law, that it will be a hard labor to stay their course. Happy for society, there are many good and highly respectable men, who gladly receive the new system of practice, for themselves and families. Whatever may be the condition of other sections of the state, in Union and Newberry districts, the preceding observations stand confirmed.—The system gains ground, though the progress is slow, compared with our desires.

There are many honest enquirers after truth, who begin to question the doctrine of transubstantiation: They do not understand how the most deadly poisons can be changed into good medicine, by the skilful administration, or mysterious technicalities of the regular faculty. They do not understand by what slight of hand, a medicine can be made to cure a sick man, that would kill a well one. They cannot see the propriety of a physician's taking the same method to cure a sick patient, that the butcher uses to kill an ox. They cannot reconcile it with common sense, that the learned doctor should give precisely the same medicine to cure a fever, that he gives to rats to kill them.

These high toned mysteries are examined with intense interest by many good men in this state. The scales are dropping from their eyes! Behold the mystical craft, when stripped and exposed to popular scrutiny, what are they? They are a legalised imposition on the public, got up for the purpose of affording a profitable employment for a class of men, whose defective intellectual endowments, would scarcely qualify them for merchants, farmers or mechanics. This is true in many instances.

The Medical Law of South Carolina, enacts, "That all bonds, notes, or accounts, for the practice of medicine," (by any one except a licensed physician,) "are null and void," and that if any person, other than a licensed physician, shall receive a fee for the practice of medicine, he shall be liable to a fine and imprisonment for so doing. It would seem that the honorable Legislature had their eye fixed on the *fee or reward*, so as to make it safe to the faculty, rather than the welfare of mankind. Black and white are liberated from all restraint—they may practice medicine.—If Samson like, they slay by thousands, no harm is feared; but the moment they dare to handle the *precious metal*, they offend the protected medical craft, and are liable to be punished accordingly.

From the first settlement of South Carolina, down to the year 1816, the people did very well, without any special law for the protection of the medical craft. As soon as the news of Thomson's system of practice reached the ears of the faculty, they considered their craft to be in imminent danger. Thomson's first patent was obtained in 1814. About two years after, the faculty here succeeded in getting a law for their protection; but, "truth is mighty and must prevail." Thomson's system is widely spreading and bids fair, eventually,

to root out the practice of using mineral poisons for medicine. It must be utterly abolished. All that I have any knowledge of, who have used Thomson's medicines, and experienced its beneficial effects, have given it a very decided preference. All the various forms of disease, whether under the character of fever, or other complaints incident to the country, have speedily given way to the salutary powers of Thomson's remedies, when timely application has been made. In fever and all acute complaints, the cause has generally been removed, in from two to four days, and frequently in a much shorter time. In old chronic affections, which have often been occasioned by the mercurial and other poisons, that have been administered by the *faculty*, we have found disease far more difficult to remove: But their deep seated, long established, artificial complaints have been compelled to yield to the mighty prowess of Lobelia, Steam, Cayenne and No. 6, to the extreme mortification of an interested, privileged opposition. I have often been constrained to believe that there are some of the mystical dealers in mineral poisons, who had rather the people should die of disease, than, that they should have it removed and be restored by the Thomsonian remedies. We would fondly hope that our sentiment is too censorious, but their conduct has been too strongly marked in some instances to admit a doubt to rise.

Should a Steam Doctor chance to lose a patient, whom they have given over and pronounced incurable; then, they and their dupes would raise and circulate the report, that the patient was killed by him—that he was steamed to death, or, poisoned with lobelia, or cayenne. Occasionally, in their great zeal, they will report people to be dead, who have actually recovered, and who have been abroad attending to their business, while these wise,



slandrous persecutors have been spreading the news of their death and burial.

In these cases of emergency we must excuse them, for there is in these extreme cases, no other alternative, but to own the truth, or make lies their refuge.

In some places it is nothing uncommon for the regular mineral craft, to call to see the steamer's patients.—

They will begin with a sanctified countenance, to pity their case and advise them, or their friends, to quit the simple vegetable medicines of the country, and to take the pure mineral poisons of the shops, and from a skilful hand, and sometimes, even to ensure a speedy recovery. I have heard of some who were so very zealous, that they would stop the messenger, when going for the steam doctor, telling him, falsely, that he was not at home;—tendering their services and directions how to proceed. There are some who make it their business to vilify and abuse the Thomsonian practice, who at the same time, make use of his medicine, in a secret way; that is, as far as they know it, and with good success. The grand object of some of the faculty appears to be, to get hold of the system, to the injury of Thomsonians: but, the safety of society requires an unmixed practice. Dealers in mysteries and minerals, should not have any thing to do with it. If they have the medicine in possession, and attempt to use it, they are so attached to their learned superstitions, so profoundly ignorant of the nature of disease and appropriate means of removal or the restoration of the patient, that it is perilous to employ them. They are prone to mix their mineral poisons with the medicine they administer, which is certainly a dangerous experiment.

There are some of the faculty who appear honestly and earnestly to be seeking for the truth. It is most se-

riously to be hoped that the pure light of the Thomsonian system may shine to every human being, capable of appreciating its excellencies, and enjoying its practical advantages.

I know of a case of violent asthma, which was attended by a patent doctor, and immediate relief was given, but by exposure the patient relapsed; one of the crafty faculty was called in. The case was treated by him two or three weeks, and was salivated, and death ensued.

Some cases of fever have been attended by the mineral practitioners for eight or ten weeks, when death put an end to their sufferings. Many of these, if they had been abandoned to the course and operations of nature, I have no doubt but that they would have recovered.

I know of a family, several of whom were down with FEVER, *all affected alike*, the mineral doctors were called in, attended closely with medicine, except one, who utterly refused to take a particle. He recovered first, and retained much the best constitution. So the practice proceeds in S. Carolina, where the faculty have sought, and by some strange FACULTY, ~~do~~ obtained protection from the strong arm of the law. From such a faculty, "Good Lord deliver us!!!"

The following communication from Washington township, Montgomery county, dated December 10th, 1832, signed "Jacob Mulford," was received by the hand of Dr. W. Thomson, to whom it was first directed:

"Near two years ago I purchased a right. I knew of only two persons in the township in favor of the Thomsonian system. After some months' mature reflection, and some practice in my own family, I was called to attend a sick person, more out of curiosity in the patient than from any confidence in my medicine or skill; but to the astonishment of many, the patient was cured in a few days.

This circumstance excited the at-

tention of others. In less than a year past, notwithstanding formidable opposition, I have been called to visit more than seventy different cases; among these, several who had been given over by the mineral doctors. The opposition is now falling like Dagon before the Ark. At this time the vicinity furnishes more than a hundred decided friends of the system to defend the cause. I have had cases of fever of various types; bilious, inflammatory, scarlet, &c. I have been almost universally successful. The influence of this system is going forth with peculiar brightness, and the utility thereof is seen as an elevated lamp that burneth clearly. If time would permit, I would go into a far more particular and interesting detail of circumstances attending my short practice. At present, I must desist, hoping the unparalleled benefits of the system may be realized by all who may be under the necessity of calling for a physician.

Respectfully yours, in the best of bonds,

JACOB MULFORD."

The preceding letter having been read, and some interesting remarks made by Dr. Wilson Thomson, relative to the contents, and the state of the system in general, in the extensive range of his acquaintance, the letter was ordered to be printed with the minutes.

The following communication from Mercer county, Kentucky, was handed in by Dr. James M. Davies, the delegate from the Branch Society in that place:

"Until 1829, Dr. Thomson's system was unknown here. In that year I had the honor to introduce it to public notice in Franklin and Anderson counties. For some time I faced the storm of calumny and abuse, and stemmed the angry swelling tide of persecution alone. I was an object of the scorn and contempt of many, and

of the commiseration and humane sympathies of some. Even my personal friends seemed to look on with fearful apprehensions, and trembling anticipations, of the final result.

Being rooted and grounded in the Thomsonian faith, I stood firm and unawed by the fury of the raging winds, and bore with all the calmness I could command, the merciless peltings of the pitiless storm. Like the stern oak of the forest, whose leaves have been shaken by a violent tornado, but whose root is unmoved, so stands the cause at this day. It has been patronized and extended beyond the limits of the state.

There are now fourteen about to associate as a branch of the Friendly Botanic Society of the United States; they solicit its patronage, and expect a considerable accession of numbers. My personal efforts have been directed to the establishment of the reputation of the practice, more by practical demonstrations than otherwise. I deem it expedient to make a more determined effort to make a more extensive diffusion of the knowledge of the system. It is capable of sustaining itself under the most unfavorable circumstances. I have known it to prevail over the combined powers of the prejudices of the patients, their friends, the physician and the disease which had bid defiance to their skill.

While some are so ungrateful as to strive to filch from Thomson the meed of deserved praise, that they may enrich themselves by his discoveries, I feel it my duty and a distinguished favor to sustain the cause, as one of heaven's richest boons to man. I feel devoted to advance the interests of humanity, and to transmit the knowledge of his name and of his system to the latest posterity, as I most sincerely esteem him one of the greatest benefactors of the human family."

I A. MAGILL,  
Sec'y. of the Board.

The preceding communication being received with approbation, was directed to be entered on the records for publication with the minutes.

A communication was received from Mr. CHARLES OLCOTT, Esq. Brunswick, Medina county, Ohio, dated December 7th, 1832.

Which being read, on motion,

“Resolved, That however highly this convention appreciate the acquisition of all useful scientific knowledge, they are not prepared or disposed to patronize medical colleges and universities, or any speculative schemes, relating to medical science. Their principal concern is to promote and encourage such medical knowledge as concerns every family liable to disease, and such as by due exertion they may all acquire in a greater or less degree, without soliciting subscriptions and donations to prepare the way for advancing monopolizing schemes, and cast back society into that medical vassalage from which they are now beginning to seek for full emancipation.”

A communication was received from Petersburg, Virginia, dated November 29th, 1832; which being read, the following extract was ordered to be printed with the minutes:

“I am happy to assure you that I can safely say, that no failure has taken place in my practice where there has been life enough to build upon. I have had some cases of almost every form of disease which our country is subject to. I have not lost one. I have had but one case of the cholera; that was of the worst type. The patient was entirely pulseless, cold as death in all his extremities to his body. Cramp and spasm seized him—he was universally affected. I relieved him in two hours from every kind of pain and sickness—in four hours he was able to be up at the table and ate quite heartily. The third day he commenced labor, and

has not been sick since. I have had many cases of the scarlet fever, and have not lost one. Our regular M. D. has lost five out of six, as near as I can ascertain the facts in the case. So much for learned quackery. Our M. D. I understand intends to memorialize our Legislature this winter, in order to put down the Thomsonian system of medicine.

I will not close this letter until I give you some account of the success which the Thomsonian system has met with in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Curtis writes me that he had 108 cases of cholera in that city: Some of those were of the very worst type. Many were without any sensible pulsation at the wrist, but he lost not one. In some of these cases we understand that one of the learned doctors witnessed the operation of the medicine, and became an advocate for the system.

I must enquire, is there no way by which the regular faculty can obtain the books and be instructed in the Thomsonian system? Dr. Thomson appointed me his agent last May, and forbid that the regular doctors or their students should be privileged in that way. The question is simply this: What would be the Doctors' course, where gentlemen would give ample pledge and security to abandon their former practice—and what would be the charge for admission?

Most respectfully submitted by  
TRIPLET T. ESTESS,  
Agent for Dr. Thomson, Va.

After the preceding communication was read, Dr. Thomson rose and observed, that for a long time he had regarded the regular faculty with a jealous eye, and not without the most cogent reasons. They have been hostile to an alarming extent—their persecutions have been as extravagant, and perfectly in character with Salem witchcraft, and commenced in

the same region, and had been conducted in the same deluded blood-thirsty spirit. This would appear plain, he said, beyond contradiction, to all who were acquainted with the facts. The disgraceful criminality of their conduct towards himself personally, was a deep blot on the present generation, which the faithful pen of the historian cannot erase from the page of his future recollections: But, said the Doctor, so many worthy and learned men have lately embraced the system of medical practice I have divulged, have become such active and successful supporters, and constitute such high & honorable exceptions to the REGULAR opposition, as I may properly call it, that I have come to the conclusion, that when my Agents are fully convinced of the integrity and correct moral principle of any of the faculty, who may wish to engage in the botanic practice, if they will give a satisfactory pledge in writing, attested by competent witnesses, that they will abandon the use of mercury, antimony, lead, nitre, arsenic, or any mineral preparations, or opium, as remedies for disease, or the use of blistering and blood-letting, and adhere strictly to the Thomsonian prescriptions and botanical remedies exclusively, that to serve the cause of humanity they shall have the same privilege as others of their fellow citizens. In all cases of doubt bond security might reasonably be required.

On hearing the Doctor's statement, it was

Resolved, That they acquiesce in both the letter and spirit with the instructions suggested by Dr. Thomson whereby to regulate the conduct of his agents, and ordered the whole statement to be entered on the records of the convention and published with the minutes.

A communication was received from Ravenna, Portage county, under date of Nov. 25th, 1832; signed

Lyman Sturdevant. Among other interesting matter, Dr. Sturdevant suggests the idea, and wishes to call the attention of the society to a due consideration of the propriety and importance of establishing a botanic infirmary at some suitable point in the western country. The above communication being read, it was

Resolved, That the convention are fully apprised of the utility of such institutions, as has been demonstrated in some of the eastern cities. They recommend that persons disposed and who have sufficient disposable funds at command, should begin to stir up their minds to the contemplation of the subject, that so soon as time and circumstances shall sufficiently develop the most appropriate course and most suitable location, they lose no time in carrying so laudable and interesting a design into full execution.

A communication was received from the botanic Society, Rutland, Meigs county, under date of Dec. 1st, 1832.

"Dr. Thomson's system of practice," say they, was introduced into this place, in the month of August, 1830, by Jesse W. Stephens, of Rutland, who at that time was much opposed as relates to that system of practice, by all friends and relations; at present, the scene is changed; adherents in this place are numerous, Dr. Stephens was appointed the delegate to represent that BRANCH in the convention. The communication was signed,

B. RICHARDSON, *Pres't*  
JESSE W. STEPHENS, *Sec'y*.

The preceding was ordered to be printed with the minutes.

The following communication made to the editor of the Thomsonian Recorder, for the information of the convention, was handed in and ordered to be read. The letter bears date Nov. 12th, 1832; written from Winnsborough, S. Carolina.

"Gentlemen, perhaps it may be gratifying to you, to hear something of the progress in Chester District, state of South Carolina. It is said the steam doctors are killing eleven out twelve of their patients, and the remaining twelfth goes blind, precisely two years and a day, from and after the first application of steam.

In Fairfield District, the steamers made a great noise for a while, but the people found out it was a yankee trick, and have abandoned the practice, and employed the regulars again.

In Lancaster, there are 10 of the patent doctors in jail.—The system has blown up entirely.

In Kershaw, they have roasted several patients and have made a great deal of work for calomel.

In Chesterfield, they run a steam doctor at full speed out of the district, and threatened him with a thorough scalping if ever he brought a particle of Lobelia into that section of country again.

☆ The above is an extract from the DAILY SLANG GAZETTE; published at *Anti-Truth's-ville*; edited by DR. KILL STEAMER—opposite No. 6, MERCURY ALLEY.

☆ NOW FOR FACTS. ☆

About four years ago, the Thomsonian system was introduced into Chester District. Forty or perhaps fifty, purchased family Rights, and have used the medicine in their families ever since, when it was needed. Their persecutions have been almost equal to what befel Dr. Thomson himself. Amidst all these trials they hold fast to the system; and a few additional Rights have been sold there this fall. A few individuals have been licensed to practice publicly. Opponents are beginning to reef sails, and lower their colors.—They find they must arm with more deadly weapons than their base calumny, or they will never be able to vanquish the steam doctors.

In Fairfield the Thomsonian system was introduced about two years ago; and about 40 have purchased family Rights. Those who have preferred an unfashionable cure for disease, to a fashionable death, have not been disappointed in their expectations with regard to its excellency.

In Lancaster District, a few Rights were sold, upwards of a year ago; but owing to Howard's irrevocable agency being revoked, and no books for sale here until April last, there has not been time to do much in that District. About 25 families have purchased Rights. A board was established a few days ago. We thought that some of the members at least were as respectable as Dr. French. ☆

Indeed, I have seldom seen an equal number of gentlemen together, on any occasion, whom I thought better calculated than the Lancaster board are to give an energetic impulse to the Thomsonian cause.

In Kershaw, two individuals bought family Rights about two years ago; but not being furnished with medicine, nothing was done to give the system effect, until the summer passed, when between 25 and 30 Rights have been disposed of there. The system is marching onward. Mr. Ferris was with me in that District; I shall refer you to him for a more minute and specific account of our prospects.

In Chesterfield, about ten Rights have been sold. It is not more than two months since the first rights were sold there. I had an excellent opportunity of testing the efficacy of the system of practice in a fever case.—One course of medicine removed the complaint.—Several intelligent, respectable citizens were present, witnessed the operation of the medicine, were fully satisfied, purchased Rights and went home determined to be their own physicians in future.

In Darlington, a number of Rights



have been recently sold, and more books are wanting.

In Sumpter, I think about eight own Rights; they are some of as respectable citizens as there are in the District. We have tried the system on the varied forms of fever in South Carolina, and are well satisfied of its efficacy. We have to oppose ignorance and interest, and the pride and prejudice of all those that fatten on mystery and the credulity of the multitude. We are determined to use those medicines in our families, that we find will act most in harmony with the principles of life, and have nothing in them tending to death. For the more satisfactory information of the friends of the system, I would just remark that I have sold about 120 Rights since the first of April last.

Yours,

with respectful consideration,

WM. CARLISLE.

The preceding letter from Wm. Carlisle, was heard with profound and respectful attention. After a few desultory complimentary remarks on the acumen of the author's satire, and expressions of congratulation for their botanical friends in that region, it was directed to be placed on the minutes for publication.

The following communication was received from Chester county Pa. dated Nov. 29th, 1832.

At a meeting of the Thomsonians in said county, assembled agreeably to public notice, it was

*Resolved*, That Richard Barnard, Wm. Gawthrop, and Wm. Johnson be a committee to address a letter in the name of the meeting, to the United States Botanic Convention, which is to assemble at Columbus Ohio, on the third Monday of December next.

*Resolved*, That should this committee receive the proceedings of the Convention, that they are hereby requested to submit the same to this branch society without delay.

Signed, WM. JOHNSON, Secy.

#### TO THE UNITED STATES BOTANIC CONVENTION.

Fellow citizens: We will not trouble you with a long letter. We are in general but young members of the society, and have had but little experience in the Thomsonian system of medicine. But little as we know in relation to it, and little as we have seen of its beneficial effects upon the sick; yet we have known and seen a sufficiency to convince us that heretofore we have been grossly blinded and most egregiously imposed upon by *learned quackery*. We have indeed seen those who were crippled with rheumatism, cured in a few days—we have seen others afflicted with quinsy and many other complaints, restored to health and comfort in a few hours. We have seen one case of cholera and heard of others, where relief was obtained and a cure effected in a short time, sometimes in a few minutes, by Thomsonian medicines. In short, we have never administered the medicine, or seen it administered, without witnessing the most satisfactory and beneficial results; hence we have no wavering opinion, or suspicious faith respecting it, but we feel the fullest confidence that where it is administered according to the rule laid down in the "*New Guide to Health*," it will effect a cure where a cure is possible. As the convention will probably publish their proceedings, please to forward them to the undersigned, or either of them.

Respectfully, yours, &c.

RICHARD BARNARD,  
WILLIAM GAWTHROP,  
WM. JOHNSON.

On reading the above it was directed to be placed on the records for publication.

The attention of the Convention was then solicited to a communication that had been prepared for the pages of the Recorder, coming from Dr. Thomson and containing a development of the machinations, evil devices and miserable chicanery of the speculating, peculating sciolists that have hung on his foot steps, and haunted the peaceful sanctuary of his retirement. It was received with uncommon interest. The communication was accompanied with an host of important documents and

vouchers sustaining several of the more important items. It reads as follows:

“Persecutions and cruel mockings, and opposition from corrupt minds have attended my whole course from the time I commenced my medical discoveries to the present moment.

2. Many items of these calamities have been published to the world in the narrative of my life.

3. I have suffered innumerable difficulties from those creatures who have styled themselves “The Regular Faculty.”

4. The Regulars have always been anxious to get hold of my discoveries, and when instructed, they have turned about and reproached me with ignorance, that they might rise into consequence by my teaching, without any acknowledgement of the gratitude due to their benefactor.

5. Some of those who wantonly condemned me and my whole practice as a system of quackery, have by some means been induced to read my publications, and adopted my system with all its quackery, and have become quite successful practitioners. It is seldom I hear a distant expression of gratitude from any such source.

6. It is seldom that such creatures are willing to give me any credit—they are often using my system without being willing to make an explicit acknowledgment.

7. Elias Smith pursued such a course, and for a man as destitute of medical knowledge as he was, manifested uncommon assurance, and evinced a most astonishing degree of ingratitude.

8. In 1818, a man named Whitlow went to England and set up steaming with great success, in treating scrofula &c. To rid himself of the odium of Thomson’s steam quackery, he employed American vegetables to make what he called a Medicated Vapor Bath. He sold his right of using his apparatus to Dr. Reynolds, of Boston, at a great price. To him the people flocked and gave each, a dollar, to be steamed with the Medicated Vapor—such is the magic of a name. If he had only called it steam, it would have been the essence of quackery.

9. Quacks are stealing from quacks; this is the raging spirit of the day.—

Counterfeited quackery also prevails—many physicians in this state are adopting my remedies; but they mix them with so many pernicious drugs that they seldom stand a fair chance of obtaining the good name they deserve.

10. That my system is gaining ground is evident from this circumstance, that most of the apothecaries of note, in the United States keep the principal part of my medicines for sale.

11. The Reformed Colleges of New York and Worthington Ohio, have built on me as a foundation, without being willing, like honest men, to acknowledge that Thomsonianism is the rock on which they are founded.

12. I would propose to take away from the Reformed Colleges every article of medicine, and every prescription and direction given by me, and what would all their knowledge in medicine be worth! Surely not one cent!

13. Those who have adopted my system, even partially, are notoriously more successful than before; they depend on something better than the legs of the law—the law that could protect them in killing their patients in the old fashioned way, by lancet, calomel, and blister, could not help them in the smallest degree in the understanding and curing disease.

14. The ingratitude of which I have been complaining, is nothing to be compared to the ungrateful conduct of some whom I had received as bosom friends, and treated them as such, but they proved to be inveterate enemies and opposers, all with a view to make gain for themselves.

15. With open enemies I was better prepared to contend, but the secret enemies who feigned to appear under a mask of friendship have been the most unreasonable, unmanageable beings I ever had to deal with.

16. To see persons with whom I have spent days, months, and even years, to instruct them in my hard earned discoveries, come out against me, pretending that they are the original discoverers of those things that I have taught them—claiming superiority over me—striving to eclipse the glory of my little star that they saw was beginning to shine, is in my opinion a work too scandalous

and mean to pass over without some notice.

17. Among these are two persons guilty of the most intolerable ingratitude---two of those persons are professed teachers of morality and religion. Some of these opposers I shall take the liberty to name, viz: Elias Smith, David Rogers, Horton Howard and others.

18. These men have published books in which they pretend to have made great improvements upon my system. They have used their utmost endeavors to supplant me, and enrich themselves upon my labors.

19. Of Smith and Rogers I shall only say that their publications are too contemptible to be seriously noticed on the present occasion. Horton Howard having lately published a large work, in which he talks much of discoveries and improvements, and also an extra to his periodical, which extra he styles "A brief exposition" &c. It becomes necessary for me in my turn to make some exposition also.

20. If in my exposition I be compelled to make remarks that may occasion any unpleasant feelings, and he be disposed "to complain, he may remember," to use his own words, "that himself alone, is accountable for it, and not me."

21. I feel it to be a duty I owe to society, to Howard and myself, to give this Eclectic extra, a passing notice. He regrets to be "compelled to appear before the public in defence of his own character;" but had he always acted with correctness, all these exertions would have been unnecessary.

22. He has a tolerable slight at telling his own story to make the public believe that he is a persecuted injured man. There really appears to be considerable policy and management in raising this cry, and then to complain of the noise, that he is making himself.

23. I shall proceed without further apology, to notice his "concise history of his former connection with Dr. Thomson." He states, "the necessity of this history becomes the more

imperious, from the fact, that a few individuals have conceived the idea, that my motives in bringing my works before the public, were to injure Dr. Thomson, because he had injured me."

24. No man has spoken more highly of my system than Mr. Howard, while he found it for his particular interest so to do. If by my system, he could put money into his pocket, as fast as he did while he was acting as my agent, I have not a doubt but that he would be as zealous an advocate of my theory and practice, as he ever was.

25. We hear not of any of his dreams of improvements until his agency was taken away, and with it his prospects of gain were departing.

26. It is plain to be seen by his own account of his agency, that there must have been from the beginning a design to engross the whole management, and all the emoluments, to supplant me, to take all power out of my hands during the life of the patent, and that in case of his decease, the same powers, privileges and immunities, he wished to descend to his son or sons at his discretion.

All this he measurably admits in his appeal, but complains heavily that he was compelled to make large appropriations for the promotion and extension of the Thomsonian system of practice.

28. Can he make the world believe that his expenses in preparing, engraving and printing his State map that was going on in his house, while my books were in the press, were aimed at the extension and promotion of the Thomsonian system?

29. He has much to say about the 95 sets of Books which he says was all he had of me, but he is careful not to mention how I was cut out of my righteous dues on the books: two years after he had sold and collected pay for them, two and an half years

after they had been placed at his disposal, he paid me 30 cents per set.

30. If he sold those books agreeably to contract, at \$20 per set, the sales would have amounted to nineteen hundred dollars; one half of which belonged to me.

31. He is particularly careful not to give any intimation of the nine hundred dollars worth of medicine, he received of me the same season, for which I obtained from him about three hundred and sixty for my own use, the remainder he said was applied for the promotion and extension of the Thomsonian system. Thus twenty-four hundred dollars was disposed of to answer the purposes of Mr. Howard. This money, thus obtained went to make up the items of the enormous expenses, of which he complains.

32. Mr. Howard states in his *EXTRA*, that he "received 95 sets of my books, for which he paid me the cost of printing, which was much more than what he charged for those which he afterwards printed for me, himself."

33. I would ask friend Howard, if 30 cents was not the amount allowed me, per set, for the printing of my books in Boston? Was not I charged \$3 per copy, for books for my son? Is it possible he has forgotten this? Has his zeal to promote and extend the Thomsonian system so shamefully impaired his memory?

34. He says he "never refused to settle with me." Did I not demand, in presence of some Referees, who were endeavoring to adjust our business, the *ITEMS* of his accounts? Did he not decline giving them? Has he ever complied with the request? When, where and how, did he ever give a fair, minute and explicit detail of the items of debt and credit, existing between us?

35. He gives the public to understand, that the Reference consisted of men of my own choosing. I would ask, did I choose the third man, and himself to give judgment of the case? Or, did I choose Wm. Hanco to be witness, attorney and clerk?

36. Howard says, that I would not attend though often solicited. Is this the truth? Did I not hand in my account, as every honest man ought to do, and then retire, requesting that if I should be wanted, I might be called for? It appears my company was not desired as I was not called for.

37. Like the unjust steward, he has been turned out of his stewardship; to dig he is probably ashamed, he has consequently hit upon the expedient of publishing a big book, to rival the man he acknowledges to be his benefactor, hoping thereby to discharge the vast sums expended for the promotion and extension of my system—it appears he intends this cant phrase as a veil to cover all his dark designs, and shield him from deserved censure and reproach.

38. Why has he not told us the whole truth? If he had, then this horrible "tiger", which he represents me to be, would not have been under the necessity of staring him full in the face. You boast of treating me *religiously*, but if we may take this *extra* as a specimen of your religious etiquette and deportment, it furnishes a sad example for our imitation.

39. I would ask Mr. Howard if he had not forty thousand dollars worth of property in his hands, which was the joint property of Samuel Thomson and Horton Howard? Have I not given up all for four thousand, four hundred and forty five dollars, throwing into the general sacrifice the twenty four hundred dollars which I furnished you with before?

40. The truth of the story is this, your conduct towards me was such that I relinquished my claim on upwards of forty thousand dollars in your hands, except the small sum of four thousand four hundred and forty five dollars,

which would not pay for my time, and the expenses of several journeys from Boston, only to get rid of such an unjust toward.

41. His statement concerning the sum paid, is nearly correct, but he is entirely silent about the forty thousand dollars he had in his hands.

42. If the reader will only notice the facts as set forth by himself, in his "Exposition," he will soon discover how grudgingly he paid me that small sum of which I accepted. It does not appear that he ever intended to pay me any thing. He had not kept any book until the time of the reference we have already mentioned, which was about three years after the contract—I was satisfied that he never intended I should have a cent. On reflection I thought it was best to be contented with a little, rather than not get any thing, and endeavor to place my business in better hands.

43. There is another fact which goes to show that he meant to hold every thing of mine fast that he could get his hands upon. In the year 1829, while Mr. Howard was acting as my agent, and in my behalf, he made a contract for Robinson's Lectures, delivered by request of the members of the friendly botanic society in Cincinnati.—He then secured the copy right in his own name, (like Smith) and presented a charge against me before the referees of about three hundred dollars, which was allowed as my debt—of course his right was dead—He had no business with the copy right, as he was acting for me.

44. Another charge was allowed for printing said Lectures of about four hundred dollars—These were all disposed of for his own profit, without any credit at the time of our general settlement, concerning which he is speaking, when he mentions the three thousand in press, which he says I would have one half to be delivered to my agents in November. When they appeared, to the great astonishment of the agents, they found the copy right secured to Horton Howard, and an advertisement or proclamation to the world that he was my irrevoca-

ble agent—He also published in the journal that he was the irrevocable agent of Samuel Thomson; and tried to palm himself upon the society at the annual meeting as such.

45. When there was a full settlement on the seventh of August, and his agency revoked on the 9th, he still insisted on being agent, whether I would have him or not. This caused me another journey in the depth of winter. He had the effrontery to forbid PIKE and PLATT from issuing their bills of agency, threatened to inflict the penalties of the law—He made them believe that he had a hook or catch upon me in the instrument he held—No doubt he designed to have had one, to have enabled him to hold on after the settlement.

46. He had so managed the concern by his advertisements, &c. in publishing the Lectures mentioned, that if I, or my agents sold one copy, it would be virtually a confession, that he was indeed my agent, and that the copy right belonged to him—This was his mode of managing business.

47. Previous to my coming to Columbus at the time alluded to, I SECURED THE COPY RIGHT of the said Lectures in Boston, as they were bought with my money by my agent. I brought several copies on with me, and showed them to Wm. Hance, whom Howard styles my great friend—He uttered some threats in behalf of Howard, and told me of the penalty on each sheet, &c.

48. I urged him to proceed, that we might have an opportunity to see who would have the penalty to pay—Mr. Howard had the assurance this season to forbid my agents printing the Lectures, under my copy right—He has not yet carried his threats into effect—If he wishes to try titles, he has not any time to spare—The sooner he pulls off the veil, and shows his true character to the world the better—If he suffers any loss or inconvenience in being turned out of the agency, "he must blame himself, and not me."

The following is designed to "illustrate" certain points alluded to.



### Horton Howard's Acc't. against the Thomsonian System:

Debt'r. to Horton Howard;	
1829, Jan. For one set Surgical Instruments,	\$20 00
For 16 days' travelling expenses,	25 00
March. For 15 days' travelling expenses,	20 37½
April. For expenses moving to Columbus,	45 00
For 12 days' travelling expenses,	18 00
May 31. For First Edition Books, 950 sets,	441 31½
For 10 days' travelling expenses,	10 00
June 30. For 12 days' travelling expenses,	14 12½
July 31. For 9 days' travelling expenses,	12 50
Aug. 31. For 9 days' travelling expenses,	10 50
Sept. 30. For 14 days' travelling expenses,	18 25
Oct. 31. For 18 days' travelling expenses,	27 37½
Nov. 31. For 7 days' travelling expenses,	9 12½
Dec. For Harness,	30 00
Dec. 27. For exchange of wagon,	30 00
For 14 days' travelling expenses,	21 50
Second Edition of Books	
1840 N. 1808 Guide	748 74
Paid William Hance,	579 00
Do H. D. Little,	473 00
Expense of the Enquirer*,	1,593 23½
Family expenses,	300 00
Extra House rent,	90 00
Do " "	90 00
Family Expenses,	250 00
Keeping Horse 95 weeks,	95 00
Extra Family Expenses,	200 90
Printing Last Edition of Books	
3000 sets,	1,100 00
Do an Edition of Robinson's Lectures,	490 26

For Copy Right paid Robinson for do\* 300 000

\*This was the sum agreed on, but Robinson asserts that two hundred and fifty was all that he could get.

An explanation is necessary, and in so doing I shall make some repetitions with a view that I may be fully understood. The above account is considered a disgraceful scrawl. It is worthy a careful looking over. These extraordinary charges were made according to the declaration of Wm. Hance, after my arrival in town, and previous to the reference, as Howard said, "For the promotion and extension of the Thomsonian cause." The money, he said, was as fast as collected, applied for the disbursement of those expenditures.

The 95 sets of books I have mentioned which I brought from Boston, were to be sold at twenty dollars per set, and the money to be applied for printing and other expenses, which would have amounted to nineteen hundred dollars, beside the medicine I furnished him, amounting to about nine hundred dollars, which was also sold, and the money applied to the promotion and extension of my system as HOWARD said, excepting three hundred and sixty dollars which I received of him. Instead of being allowed my half of the nineteen hundred dollars for the books I brought from Boston, I found to my utter astonishment that WM. HANCE, who pretended to be my particular friend, had by the direction of HOWARD, written a receipt which I had signed, in which I had been allowed only thirty cents per set for said books. This happened at an unfortunate time for me. Reposing confidence in his honesty, I was unsuspecting and unguarded. It occurred when I was worn down with excessive fatigue, loss of sleep, anxiety and exposure in a laborious attendance on Mr. Forror, son-in-law to HOWARD, whom I raised from a bed of deathly sickness, which was considered almost miraculous by all who beheld the scene. I raised HOWARD himself the week before, as he

\*See Appendix, Article 4.

said, "from a bed of death." So much watching, fatigue, anxiety, &c. put my unsuspecting mind in a situation to suffer imposition. I was thus, at one thrust, cut out of all that was due me, and brought in debt to Howard for the "printing of the books printed or caused to be printed by said Howard."

This I did not discover until my arrival in Boston, and not until I had recovered from the fatigue of the journey. I then immediately returned to Columbus, in order if possible to recover my rights, of which this scandalous transaction had deprived me.



✂ See appendix, No. 2.

This is not all: In a future settlement with him, I found I was charged three dollars per set, for books I had of him, for which I had been charged with the printing before. This shews the difference in the value of the same books when printed by HOWARD, compared with those printed at, and transported from Boston.

I think agents, who were authorized to sell books, will be able to recollect and decide, what they have so often told me relative to those printed by HOWARD, that it was disgraceful that books of so much consequence should be printed and bound so slightly. The workmanship was not equal to that of a spelling book made for children to tear up in a few days. He hired the cheapest workmen, and I am confident he charged me full price. The materials used in binding the books were of the meanest cheapest kind. All who have seen the books, except the first edition, which he employed a binder to bind at a low rate, must know my statement is so far correct. No person acquainted with the business will doubt but that HOWARD's charges were sufficient to have furnished books and binding well executed. HOWARD pretended that he thought it a very strange affair that I should be dissatisfied. I leave the facts for the world to judge. The Referees to whom our pending litigations were submitted, expunged the obnoxious clause from his agency, which made it hereditary. (See appendix No. 3.) When he reflected on this decision he was much mortified, and disappointed in

his "golden prospects." He said, I had much the advantage of him. I know not how it may appear to others, but I know how it appears to me.

He had in his hands, Notes and other property, to the amount of about \$40,000.

He had also received upwards of six thousand dollars in cash that was all swallowed up in the devouring whirlpool of expenditures, in those enormous charges of extra house rent, family expenses, paying Wm. Hance five hundred and seventy dollars for his time and labor, in practicing, preparing and selling medicine entirely for HOWARD's benefit; and printing, pasting varnishing and selling HOWARD's state map; also \$1593.23, and a  HALF  cents, for his Newspaper, which HOWARD said was published for the "promotion and extension," of the Thomsonian system—but the truth is, his paper was devoted to politics, with a view to retain and more effectually to secure to himself the office which he held under the General Government, as a Receiver of public monies, in the Land Office. This office he lost by his adherence to an expiring administration, and virulent abuse of the party now in power.—Whoever looks over a file of his papers would scarcely be able to detect a design of its being specially devoted to the Thomsonian cause.

He lost the office, and now says he sacrificed it to the Thomsonian system.


What would not a man say that self-interest could induce to make such a perverse statement? What might we not expect from so religious a man, who would thus publicly and notoriously, dispense with truth, and attempt to sustain such an untenable assertion? Should our suggestions be accounted questionable, we appeal to the columns of the "Enquirer," as published by him. This will show how he dogged the track of his political opponents—with what untiring zeal he opposed the party that has since reformed him out of office. It will plainly appear that but a very small portion, only now and then a column, contained anything in relation to Thomsonianism.

It must not be forgotten, that I paid four hundred and 73 dollars for H. D. Little, his son-in-law, for editing the political department of his paper. This was an item of Howard's charges for Little's services, and that was the kind of service he rendered, and by perseverance jostled the old man out of office. With this result of his conduct he should not blame me.

It will only be necessary to refer the reader to the *Eclectic*, a periodical published by Howard, in which he came out in his own defence, after nearly two years; during which time I had not troubled the public with any complaint against him, but as a guilty conscience needs no accuser, he could not remain quiet, but must again stir up his sink of iniquity. We hope his intended defence will spread wide among the people, where they have not gone; we should be glad to circulate them, that we may give his own words, and be excused from personal efforts to bring to light works of darkness, intrigue and dishonesty.

In relation to his medical books, that in the exercise of his rare gift for self-commendations, he applauds so highly, they have arisen out of his sore disappointment in his attempts to monopolize the proceeds of my discoveries, for himself and sons, by virtue of an irrevocable and "eternal agency." It is an imperious duty to expose his conduct to the world, and unravel, in some degree, what I conceive to be his multiplied iniquities. The opinion advanced by the convention concerning his improvements, I have no doubt will be sustained by every honest man acquainted with the facts, upon which we have presumed to make this statement for the benefit of community.

We shall pass by many things that might be noticed, to show the course my agent, Howard, was pursuing to blind my eyes, and gain my confidence, and come to a receipt signed by Judge Pike and Wm. Hance, whom I had authorized to receive any money or other property from said Howard.—This article gave no power to make any settlement, nor was it ever intend-

ed to; but to receive money and deposit the same in bank. I was again called from Boston, a journey of a thousand miles, to correct \* \* \* a mistake,  if you please to call it so, of my pretended friend Wm. Hance. I had received a letter from him, informing me that "Howard had returned from the South, and that he had the greatest satisfaction in informing me that they had made a settlement with Howard, and after paying him fourteen hundred dollars which was due him, and four hundred dollars for binding the books, they had deposited in bank four hundred and forty-five dollars. This was the first money I had received for all the books which had been sold for three years and a half. No doubt he intended it should be the last, as he says that Pike and Hance had made a settlement, but was careful not to mention in all his transactions the forty thousand dollars, or more, which was then in his hands.]

Could Howard have succeeded through the instrumentality of Hance to have effected a legal, permanent and final settlement, and hold fast to all the books, his designs would have been nearly accomplished. If my memory serves me, he once endeavored to induce me to sign an article to this purport; viz: "That I agreed to leave the sums that should be due me at any time, being the avails of his agency, to be determined by his discretion." It was drawn up in as strong and forcible language as he could find words to express himself by. I told him I should not sign any such one-legged instrument. Thus I sprung his trap without being caught that time. It appears his next dependence was Hance's and Pike's power to receive and deposit money for me, designing to pay some trifling sum, and by managing the concern ingeniously among hands, convert it into a final settlement. He was scenting the old track he took in relation to the nine hundred dollars worth of medicine we have mentioned, that he worked up in promoting and extending the Thomsonian cause to about three hundred dollars—this he gave his note for, but never paid it, until three years af-

ter; then he paid it grudgingly. I found at the time of the Reference that HOWARD had gulled me heavily when he pretended to settle the charge for medicine. I called on HOWARD for my share of the profits of the medicine, and the preparations thereof, made and sold by him and Hance. He said that was all settled, produced his receipt of a settlement in full, and I never have had one cent for all the medicine made and sold by Howard and Hance, for which the original medicine was furnished by myself. From the commencement of his agency he assumed this privilege as entirely his own, and contrived to secure all the emoluments arising therefrom. Howard's mode of transacting business and effecting settlements was a novelty to me. He appeared so smooth and affable, and affected to treat me so 'RELIGIOUSLY,' as he stated he had done, I was not prepared to give vent to any jealousy, or suspect the mean artifice that has marked his conduct. In getting round Judge Pike, Howard and Hance no doubt designed to deprive me of the twenty-three thousand dollars reported by the Referees, as remaining in his hands, by merely paying four hundred and forty-five dollars. This appears to have been their design. See how grudgingly he paid me four thousand dollars afterwards. If this was not his design, would he not have been pleased with the opportunity of paying twenty-three thousand dollars, with four thousand? Had Howard been satisfied to have held on upon all the avails of the business, which amounted to about forty thousand dollars, and suffered my agents to proceed peaceably and unmolested, and not plunged into the foolery of REFORM, and EXPOSITION, he might have prevented me the trouble of going into an exposition of his conduct towards me. But under existing circumstances, he must have the "TIGER" to look him full in the face before the eyes of the world.

Mr. Howard says in his exposition that he had paid me six thousand dollars for the use of my patent for three years and a half; but I would ask him, when, where, or how, did I ever make any such contract with him? Was not

this a cant or turn of his to prevent people from discovering, realizing or understanding any thing about the forty thousand dollars in his hands?

Howard records more than sixty pages of remarkable cures by Thomsonian remedies, in a book intended to reform those remedies out of use, or into other forms and under the cover and protection of other names, to snit his speculation. He has neglected to state the extraordinary cures effected by me, and by the use of my means, on the person of Howard himself and his son-in-law Samuel Forror, and in the case of Wm. Hance's wife. These were indeed uncommon cures;—the cures were acknowledged to be marvelous. Recovery was unlooked for—the wavering and doubtful were confirmed in the faith and practice of the Thomsonian system. We need not go into a minute detail of particulars—we retain a faithful record of circumstances that would cause his ears to tingle, unless his moral feelings have become extinct.

The following communication made to me by Jarvis Pike, Esq. will cast some light on one part of the business between Howard and myself.

To Dr. Samuel Thomson.

SIR: Agreeably to your request, I will make a statement of facts, as nearly as I can now recollect, relating to the settlement, which has been said to have taken place between you and HORTON HOWARD, on the 13th of May, 1820, by William Hance and myself, who were then your agents to receive money, &c. from Howard. The facts are these: on the above mentioned day Mr. Hance came to my house and informed me that Mr. Howard had a sum of money that he wished to pay over to us for the use of Dr. Thomson. I went immediately with him to the house of Mr. Howard, who presented to us his book containing a long list of items of debts and credits in an account with you, at the bottom of which was written, in the hand writing of Mr. Hance, the following certificate, for my signature, Mr. Hance having previously signed it.

Columbus, May 13th, 1830.

"We have examined and approved of the above and foregoing account of debt and credit up to this day inclusive, and find a balance due Samuel Thomson of four hundred and forty-five dollars, which sum we have receipted for, and in the name, and as the attorneys, of said Samuel Thomson."

On the presentation of the account book and the certificate, I objected to the signing of it—I declined on the ground that Mr. Hance nor myself, either singly or conjointly, had authority vested in us, by virtue of the power of attorney executed by you, to make any settlement. The article was not then present before us, but I contended we were not thereby authorized to make any settlements, but merely, to receive money from time to time of Mr. Howard and transmit it to you in Boston, or deposit it in bank at Columbus, subject to your order. Mr. Hance and Howard, both thought otherwise; they contended, we had ample power given us, by you,—that the making of settlements was an important item granted to us in the said power of attorney. On this point both of the above named gentlemen were very confident.

Urgent and indispensable business hurried me and made me exceedingly anxious to return and attend to it. I was also anxious to receive and forward you the money, knowing that you were much in want of it. I proposed to Mr. Howard, that I would sign the certificate and receive the money, and if on an examination of the power of attorney it should be found it was there made our duty to settle accounts, that I would, at some convenient time, examine his accounts, and make a settlement. This proposition was acceded to by Mr. Howard, and so the business was left at that time. Shortly after this, I examined the power of attorney and found that the position taken by me was correct—that Mr. Hance and myself had not any power conferred on us to make any settlement with Mr. Howard; but, merely, to receive monies and other property of him. Of this I shortly after informed Mr. Hance and Mr. Howard, and there the matter

has rested for nearly three years. Mr. Howard, at this late period, has thought proper to publish some account of these transactions to the world, dressed up, in a form, calculated, and I have no doubt, fully intended, to carry conviction to the minds of his readers that a real *bona fide* settlement of your account and Howard's had actually taken place. To any such intimation I fearlessly demur, and do most solemnly declare, that no such settlement, in whole, nor in part, took place at that, or any other time, through or under my agency;—my agency gave no authority to make any. My signature to the certificate mentioned above, was obtained precisely under the circumstances and peculiar management herein specified.

In relation to your suggestion, respecting Mr. Howard's intention to throw you out of the twenty-three thousand dollars reported to be in his hands by the arbitrators, and all other claims that might possibly arise, these are not questions for me to decide. The facts and circumstances are before the public—they speak for themselves—and by these popular sentiments must be determined. Yours, &c.

JARVIS PIKE.

December, 1832.

The following article, given by Hance and Pike to Dr. Thomson at the time, shows how far they were authorized to settle Thomson's and Howard's accounts.

"Whereas, Dr. Samuel Thomson has this day given a power of attorney to WM. HANCE and JARVIS PIKE of the state of Ohio, which power of attorney authorizes said Hance and Pike to receive of his agent Horton Howard, monies and other property.

It is understood and agreed, that the said Hance and Pike shall deposit all monies so received in the Franklin Bank of Columbus, subject to the order of said Thomson; and should other property be received by them of said Horton Howard, it is understood and agreed, that they, the said Hance and Pike, shall convert such property as soon as may be, into money, and depo-



site the same as aforesaid. It is further understood and agreed, that the said Hance and Pike shall act in the premises jointly or severally, at their own discretion; but in all cases where they shall receive money, or other property, of said Howard, separate from the other, that they are not, nor shall they be, jointly bound to said Thomson.

Witness our hand at Columbus, this  
25th day of January, 1830.

WM. HANCE,  
JARVIS PIKE.

The following certificate is from the pen of Thomas Johnson, one of the Referees appointed to adjust the difficulties between Howard and Thomson.

"This may certify to all whom it may concern, that the account as stated by Dr. Thomson, and so often alluded to, was handed to the Referees as Howard's account against Dr. Thomson, or rather against the system, or as he expressed it, for the promotion and extension of the Thomsonian cause or system of practice.

In conversation with Wm. Hance, who attended to Mr. Howard's business, he informed me that the account was made up after the arrival of Dr. Thomson. The award was rendered in conformity to that bill of items, together with several other things of a similar and equally extraordinary and apparently exceptionable character—that have never fallen into my hands, or that I have ever been able to fix an eye upon since the award was made.—

I was under the impression that the items were taken from a day book that had been kept by Howard, but to my surprise, I was informed that there was no such day book in existence in relation to their business. To press the matter a little more closely, for my own satisfaction, I then asked for the original memorandums from which the account had been taken, or made up, I was merely told that Mr. Howard had them, but they were not brought forward. I was utterly dissatisfied with such an exceptionable suspicious course, or what might be deemed such by impartial judges, I therefore declined acting as one of the Referees, or attempting to admit and settle accounts and demands, of so extraordinary appearance, without some

more clear and unequivocal authority to sustain their correctness. I finally told the Referees that I would not continue to act as one of them, as we did not see and understand alike. I left the room—I was followed I believe, by Howard, Hance and the other referees, and urged to stay, and told that we could do better for the parties than any other persons, and that if I left them they would not be able to effect any settlement. Under such circumstances, I suffered myself to be persuaded to return to the room, and I assisted in making the award the best way I could, differing in opinion from the other two. I found my situation difficult, disagreeable, embarrassing and disgusting. Mr. Howard and Mr. Hance were often in the room, urging upon us their ideas on every point; but Dr. Thomson was not requested to attend, although he sent particular word that he would attend, if wanted, to give any necessary information they might require.

THOMAS JOHNSON,  
One of the Referees.

The preceding communication, with the documents and expositions accompanying the same, is respectfully submitted to the consideration of the convention, to be disposed of, as they, in their wisdom may think most consistent with the general interest of the Society, by their friend

SAMUEL THOMSON.

After Dr. Thomson's communication had been presented to the Convention, divers interesting remarks were made by several of the members, and after due investigation, the communication was referred to a committee, of whom it was required to carefully examine the accompanying documents, and report appropriate resolutions. The following committee were appointed—Godfrey Meyer, Ward Sears, Samuel Robinson, Joshua Hart, P. G. Young, James M. Davis, J. B. Craig, Wilson Thomson, Robert Talbott, Hugh Barnes Esq. Miller W. M'Craw, L. Houston, J. P. Tibbitts, and T. Hersey.

On motion, The meeting adjourned until candle-lighting.

Wednesday evening, 6 o'clock.

The Convention met. The object of

this evening's conference was not to proceed with the usual routine of business, but freely to make reciprocal verbal communications of some of the most extraordinary cases they had known to be successfully treated by Thomsonian remedies. In the estimation of all present, it was an highly interesting interview. Some cases of peculiar delicacy and danger, and in fact a multitude of cases not exactly suited for publication to all, in the minutia of the details of circumstances, but calculated to strengthen the weak, confirm the wavering, and impart new confidence to all, were related. After an interview of about five hours, the convention adjourned until Thursday morning, 8 o'clock.

Thursday morning, Dec. 20, 1832.

The Convention met at 8 o'clock, agreeably to adjournment. A communication from Delaware county Pa. was presented, from which copious extracts had been recently published in the Recorder. A resolution was proposed that this and the communications from Spencer, Indiana; from Mount Eaton Ohio; and from the Richmond branch Ohio; from the Highland branch Ohio; from the branch at Drakes Creek, Sumner county Tennessee; and from Pittsburg, Pa; and numerous other communications of lesser moment should be mentioned on the records as a respectful acknowledgment of their attention to the cause. Resolution unanimously agreed to.

The following paragraph in the communication from Cincinnati being read, was ordered to be registered with the proceedings for publication.

"The Society are unanimous in the support of the Thomsonian System.— If there be any improvements, they ought to bring with them the thorough test of experience. It is well known that the medicine now used by the Thomsonian practitioners, has received that test. The salutary effects appear to be acknowledged by all who have tried them, who were not previously determined to close their eyes against the conviction of truth.

The Society are by no means opposed to genuine improvements when known to be such. They wish the light of science may aid, and not blind them, because the way-faring and unlearned

have contributed a mile to increase its store."

The following very luminous and interesting communication from that intelligent friend of the Botanic system, and successful practitioner, Dr. A. Curtis, of Richmond Va., being presented, was received with respectful attention.

Richmond Va. Dec. 11, 1832.

To the President of the U. S. Thomsonian Botanical Convention.

SIR: Deeply regretting my inability to attend the important convention over which you have the honor to preside, I avail myself of this opportunity to comply with the obliging invitation and forward you a few among the many facts that corroborate the system of medical practice advanced by Dr. Samuel Thomson, as they have been presented to my own observation.

Seeing the beneficial effects of the Thomsonian practice on a brother and sister of mine, I purchased a right to the knowledge and use of the medicine on the 30th of August last. It taught me a new mode of cleansing the obstructions of the stomach, in which particular I thought it an invaluable acquisition to my former knowledge of the medical qualities of many articles in the vegetable kingdom. I first used the Thomsonian medicine in my own family and among my servants, on whom the beneficial effects in checking and controlling the cholera, were so sudden and surprising, that they hastened to spread the information to such an extent, as to furnish me, in less than a month, with as much practice as I could well attend to. The speed and certainty with which I cured the cholera, induced many to send for me for every alarming symptom of disease. I soon had to encounter *Bilious fever, ague and fever, catarrhal fever, fits, rheumatisms, erysipilas, diarrhea, dyspeptia*, and last and worst of all, the pernicious effects of mercury and other mineral poisons, taken by persons that had been supposed to be attacked with *cholera*. Dr. Thomson's anti-cholera medicine, prepared according to his recipe, checked all premonitory symptoms, and aided much in restoring the vital heat in patients before I could bring no. 1 and no. 3, to be used successfully. The number of persons relieved were more than two

hundred. Not one died whom I attempted to cure, though, for humanity sake, I gave a little medicine to two men in a collapsed stage of cholera, who were supposed to be dying, whose spirits shortly fled. Of those whom I cured, more than twenty had a confirmed cholera—I do not mean merely a diarrhea, for a majority of the two hundred were affected that way. Many were cold, pulseless, and voiceless, to such an alarming degree, that very few physicians would have given them any medicine at all. All except two were cured in two days—several in three or four hours.

The last real cholera patient was brought to me by the *Senior Physician* of the principal Hospital, who told me that he and another, had come to the conclusion about half an hour before, that the patient was so fast merging to a collapse, as to be beyond the reach of the ordinary remedies, and remarked that "here was a fit subject for me." I asked him to administer remedies; he said "no! he was my patient, but I have turned him over to you; if you have no objection, however, I will witness the treatment." Not the least objection, said I, and commencing with my patient, in three hours by the watch, he was entirely free from cholera, and I left him eating his dinner. The Doctor witnessed the whole process, except a few minutes that he was absent on a consultation. The man slept comfortably through the night, the next day he declared he had not been as well for twelve months. He has had no signs of cholera since.

I have been employed by three persons, who, though they supposed they had got rid of the cholera, yet found it impossible to get rid of the sore mouth, the sick stomach, the crazy head the irritated bowels and cold limbs occasioned by the CALOMEL and OPIUM they had taken. I soon cured them all. One of them had been sick nine weeks—I steamed him three times; the second time he swelled much; I drew the mercury out of his system; it was a severe operation; he was much better the next day; at evening I steamed him again, this was the third time; he enjoyed it delightfully. The next day he was nearly well; the day after he attended

to his business, and is now gone into the country. None of my patients have died, and but three are now complaining of being sick. These were confirmed and miserable dyspeptics, but are fast recovering. I have myself taken two courses and am recovered from ten years dyspeptic misery, almost to perfect health."

On reading Dr. Curtis' communication, the preceding abstract was ordered to be printed with the minutes—the remainder to be placed in the hands of the Secretary of general correspondence to be disposed of at discretion.

A communication was received, signed H. Whiting corresponding secretary of the society of botanic physicians and surgeons of New York, dated Nov. 3d, 1832, addressed to the members of the botanic convention, to be held at Columbus, Ohio, on the third Monday in December next. It comprised a circular of some length, and a printed copy of their constitution. On reading the whole, on motion,

Resolved, 1. That the convention receives with due deference, the respectful attention paid to this national conference, by the associate medical society of botanic physicians and surgeons of New York, and the deep interest they manifest in the pending results of their deliberations.

Resolved, 2. That this convention and their constituents are Thomsonian's in relation to medical practice by a faithful adherence to his system, their success in the removal of disease has not been exceeded by any thing in the memory of man.

Resolved, 3. That this convention do not feel authorised, or any way justified in originating schemes of medical reform, or for instituting or patronizing medical seminaries for the acquisition of anatomical, physiological or chemical science, or the auxiliary branches of polite literature.

Resolved, 4. That notwithstanding they highly appreciate the acquisition of useful knowledge, they are far from believing that any thing more than a good share of common sense and common education is requisite for the safe and effectual administration of well known remedies for the removal of disease.

Resolved, 5. That the clinical practitioner administering medicine for the removal of general disease, is pursuing a profession distinct from chemical experiments, or the manual operations of surgery, and the knowledge of these is of little consequence to the merely, family physician.

Resolved, 6. That the object of this convention, is to advance, and not to frustrate, retard or embarrass the Thomsonian cause—not to wrangle about theoretical hair-splitting, but to try and spread the knowledge of his system to as many intelligent families as will receive it, and adhere to it, and not injure themselves nor the system, by an injudicious departure from its well established rules.

Resolved, 7. Notwithstanding the unfeigned respect and high consideration of the convention, for the motives that may have induced the associated medical, botanic physicians and surgeons of New York, it is incompatible with the views and apprehensions of this national council, to excite jealousies in the minds of any that we would give countenance to a monopolising faculty to be nurtured in our own bosom, and poured out upon society, to augment the oppression under which we now groan, by the existence of a privileged regular faculty.

Resolved, 8. That the secretary of general correspondence, exercise his discretion in relation to any subsequent correspondence that may arise out of these proceedings, in a manner calculated to promote conciliatory feelings, without departure from the avowed principles of these resolutions.

Resolved, 9. That the convention would respectfully refer their much esteemed friend C. Olcott, Esq. of Medina, Ohio, to these resolutions for further satisfaction, in relation to diverse suggestions made in the communication from him, which has been previously noticed.

Resolved, 10. The object of the Thomsonian system, is to bring the knowledge of a safe and effectual method of removing disease, and restoring the sick, into every family. Those who may be licensed to practice at large, certainly act wisely to acquire all information in their power, in relation to the

healing art, but we have found Thomsonian remedies too safe and sure in their effects, ever to be abandoned or confounded with such means as are of a doubtful character.

Resolved, 11. That it is much to be regretted, that for divers reasons best known to themselves, there has been from the beginning, certain halfway believers, or self-wise individuals, who have wished to have the world believe, that they are the knowing ones, who occasionally bleed, blister, give calomel and other drastic purges and mineral medicine, according to the judgment of the patient or their own whim—these the convention conceive have never understood the system, or they must have made shipwreck of a good conscience.

A communication from D. F. Nardin of Nashville, Tennessee, was received, and

The following abstract was ordered to be printed with the minutes, viz:—  
“When we hear Howard boasting so vainly of his own abilities, how sickening the effect. He pushes his self-praised work quite unceremoniously to the nose of every body. He talks pompously of “*physiological facts*.” He affects a consequential importance that naturally induces us to inquire, what physiological knowledge can he have possessed to have rendered him capable of improving Thomson’s system—Dr. Thomson’s medical discoveries originated with himself, and there has not been any thing written by physiologists that can expound the *modus operandi*, or specific effects of his medicine. One strong argument applies to show that Howard is not qualified to improve on Thomson, and can not do it, that is, he is not a practitioner—He dare not set up any pretensions to practical knowledge, therefore he could not have been prepared to have acquired by practical observation, what Thomson might have overlooked: for it is notorious to all who have ever taken the trouble honestly, to inquire into the real merits of the subject, that it is on actual, personal, laborious observation and practical experience that his system is founded. Practice will always evince the superiority of Thomson’s system, over all oth-



ers yet known in the schools of medicine. This truth Howard cannot, and does not deny: but has frequently and publicly acknowledged the superiority of Thomson's system.

How then can this same man dare to come out and hold forth the confident assertion, that he has found means of improving a work of such known and acknowledged superiority, in those works known and acknowledged to be inferior! Does not such a pretension exhibit a complete contradiction on the face of it? Will such proceedings be countenanced by honest, upright, and grateful men? If in the works already extant, Howard could find such means of improvement, who could not have done as much? I can hardly believe that Howard will pretend that he has made any great improvements in the science of physiology, or discovered any new system peculiar to himself. What is there so new, so interesting and extraordinary in his work? If we stop to inquire, whether a correct knowledge of physiology be necessary to practice Thomson's system with safety and success, we answer no—no more so, than a knowledge of astronomy, or mathematics, or any other science. However useful such knowledge may be, it is not so indispensable as many would have us to believe. The most ignorant practitioner, possessed of common sense, is generally as successful as the most learned physiologist.—This demonstrates the general applicability of Thomsonian remedies for the removal of disease. Dr. Thomson's theory is at once simple and reasonable; we think that facts will prove his system of medical practice, the most safe and effectual in existence. Articles may be added to the list of remedies, but the principles upon which they are to be administered, being true and immutable, must always remain the same, and any thing contrary to these, must be false. Different names may be applied to the same things, but the facts and the principles, admit of no variation.

These sentiments are respectfully submitted to the serious consideration of the convention. I hope effectual means will be adopted to secure a liberal community from imposition, and secure the sacred rights of Dr. Thomson

from those pilfering petty pirates who would supplant him in his pursuits, and assassinate his reputation."

The committee appointed to draught resolutions expressive of the views, sentiments, feelings and determinations of the national Thomsonian, botanical convention, in relation to the various subjects brought before them immediately connected with the success and interest of the institution—Recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1. That the national Thomsonian convention, view with peculiar satisfaction the extensive and respectable representation, and the interesting intelligent communications, by which the institution has been honored on the present occasion.

Resolved, 2. That this convention feel a determination to adhere firmly to the Thomsonian system of medical practice, for the removal of disease, until some substitute shall be discovered and tested by observation and experience to possess superior efficacy; this practice we have found safe and efficacious, even to our frequent astonishment; and we are confident there is not a system of practice known to the medical world, entitled to equal confidence.

Resolved, 3. That we have inquired into, and investigated the merits of the recent publication of Horton Howard and sundry documents relating to the same, and do candidly, heartily and unequivocally affirm that in our estimation, he is more righteously entitled to the appellation of intruder and supplanter, than of the high imposing character of a medical reformer.

Resolved, 4. That the practical part of his work if deprived of Thomsonian remedies, could not be of any specific utility to any man—the volume carried upon the face of it, undeniable evidence of an extensive plagiarism, and we cannot in the exercise of a good conscience afford him our patronage, but on the contrary, we feel bound by every honorable means to suppress all such innovations, and impositions on public credulity.

Resolved, 5. That in the estimation of this convention, Howard has notoriously invaded and abused the legal



rights of Dr. Thomson with an exclusive design to his own advantage.

Resolved, 6. That Legislative interference to restrain or prevent the botanical practice, is an unreasonable, unconstitutional invasion of the common rights and privileges of a free and independent people.

Resolved, 7. That we have reasons to believe, and to justify the assertion that these unconstitutional provisions of the several laws to which we allude, have been brought into existence, and their oppressive operations enforced by the direct and immediate influence of the regular faculty, and their coadjutors, for their special emolument, thereby constituting them a privileged order, incompatible with our equal liberties, and all our republican institutions.

Resolved, 8. That our confidence in the Thomsonian practice has been confirmed by testimonials from respectable sources in almost every state in the American Union.

Resolved, 9. That in the Thomsonian course of medicine, *Lobelia inflata* appears to be a specific, in cases of Hydraphobia, has been repeatedly used by Thomsonians in cases of confirmed madness, and has not been known to fail even in extreme cases.

Resolved, 10. That it is a duty to furnish testimonials on the subject of the preceding resolutions, that the Recorder may communicate those unequivocal facts, for the information of the world.

Resolved, 11. That we most ardently desire that every Legislature in the United States, would indulge and encourage the botanical practice—that they would adopt the measures of the Legislature of Alabama, and prohibit botanical physicians from the use of blisters or of mercury, antimony, arsenic, lead, opium and nitre, as remedies in the removal of disease—that all botanical physicians, who shall, or may resort to these means shall not be entitled to the usual benefits of the law, or courts of justice.

Resolved, 12. That if any member of the Thomsonian botanical society in the United States, shall indulge in the habit of using, or prescribing the above proscribed articles or poisonous drugs, he shall

thereby forfeit his standing in this society, until fully reclaimed to Thomsonian simplicity.

Resolved, 13. That it is the duty of all Thomsonians in the United States, who may have made or ascertained any new discovery or invention, for the removal of disease, to lay such discovery or invention before any branch society to which they may belong, or have access for their investigation: when said branch shall be fully satisfied of the utility and importance of any such invention or discovery, they should give all reasonable attention, and use their utmost diligence, speedily and certainly, through their official organ, to transmit, an explicit circumstantial detail of the facts, well supported by unequivocal testimony, to the corresponding secretary of general correspondence at Columbus, to be disposed of by him, in concert with Pike, Platt & Co. the general agents of Dr. Samuel Thomson, as they may think will best subserve the general interest of the institution.

Resolved, 14. That a most scrupulous regard should be had to a former suggestion on our minutes, never to impose any tax upon the secretary of general correspondence, with post office charges upon any of their communications.

Resolved, 15. That we would recommend all the members of the convention, on their return to their respective places of abode, to convene their botanic friends, and lay these resolutions before them, that they may have an opportunity to act in concert, and confirm the unanimity and co-operation of which we delight to speak.

Resolved, 16. That we have no objections to the rational cultivation and progress of medical science. The Botanical institutions rising in divers sections of the United States, to teach anatomy, physiology, chemistry, botany, midwifery and all the auxiliary branches of science may have their use, but cannot alter the nature or change the principles of the Thomsonian system, or alter its designs of extending the knowledge thereof to the families and firesides of the community at large, as far and as fast as consistent with the rights and privileges of the original patentee.

Resolved, 17. That if those institutions ambitiously rising up, will adhere to the Thomsonian principles and prescriptions, utterly renounce the remedies we have so often publicly proscribed, and give Thomson deserved credit, and never pretend to reject his system, and then build on him as a foundation, and never invade his rights, if we do not as a body directly and systematically patronise their schemes, we do not feel, nor intend to exercise hostility. We wish them prosperity in every laudable and honorable effort to increase and extend the knowledge of the healing art.

Resolved, 18. That we wish the Thomsonian Recorder should be, and remain the mouth piece of the society, and the convention will patronise and encourage the same, while found faithful to the cause, and we heartily approve the course the editors have taken, and their evident devotedness to the cause.

Resolved, 19. That the thanks of the convention are due to Dr. Thomson for his luminous and instructive extemporaneous lecture on the fundamental principles of his system, delivered to them on the 20th Dec. instant, by which they have been confirmed and edified in the doctrines and practices appertaining to his scheme.

GODFREY MEYER,  
ROBERT TALBOTT,  
WARD SEARS,  
WILSON THOMSON,  
LEVI HOUSTON,  
SAM'L. ROBINSON,  
HUGH BARNES, Esq.  
JOSHUA HART,  
P. G. YOUNG,  
M. W. M'CRAW,  
JAS. M. DAVIS,  
J. P. TIBBITTS,  
J. B. CRAIG.  
T. HERSEY.

The committee also recommended and reported an address to their fellow citizens of the United States, which was approved unanimously and ordered to be printed with the minutes, as follows:

Fellow Citizens—The deep and honest concern we feel for the welfare of our fellow beings, induces us to call your attention to the Thomsonian practice of medicine. We know that in many places it is extremely unpopular,

because its merits have not there been tested. An interested faculty are opposed because the craft is in danger. A persecuting spirit prevails—if Thomsonians attend a patient abandoned as hopeless by the regulars, and he dies, report will say the Thomsonians killed him. If he be recovered from his disease, report will circulate the tale that he was not the subject of any serious indisposition. Amidst the difficulties we have had to encounter, we have been astonished at the progress and triumph of the cause. Prosecutions have been maliciously commenced, but in no instance have these prosecutions been sustained. Could any wrong have been detected, any violation of law proven, it would long ere this have been told from Kamschatka to Cape Horn. Thus it is that truth has stopped the mouths of lions and quenched the violence of fire. Before the convention convened we had imbibed the opinion that the cause was progressing, and travelling with resistless strides, but we had no conception of the extent, the triumph, the literary patronage, and rising glory of the System. The joint testimony of every individual in this convention, and the numerous communications from almost all sections of the Union, confirm our faith and animate our zeal in the arduous enterprise in which we are engaged. We recommend to all engaged in the practice, to adhere firmly to the Thomsonian prescriptions and mode of administration—to be careful that all patients submit, and engage to abandon all other remedies, and to abide faithfully in the use of Thomsonian remedies, when once they commence; to be faithful and persevering in practice whenever they undertake in any case; be careful not to be led away with every wind of doctrine. The Thomsonian practice in our hands has proved efficacious, beyond our most sanguine expectations, astonished our friends and confounded gainsayers.

All who have turned aside after the fairy ghosts of pretended reformation, have, in our most candid estimation, failed to establish their claims to our patronage.

First principles are immutable, facts supported by competent testimony are incontrovertable. On this broad and

permanent basis is the Thomsonian system founded, and stands like the mighty rocks that girt the ocean shores, and repel the dashing billows dying at their feet.

Surrounded as we are, with such an astonishing cloud of witnesses, at such a momentous and interesting crisis, we recommend unwearied attention to the promotion and extension of the knowledge of the system, as you value human life, peace of conscience and the dearest interests of humanity.

In the exercise of candid, persevering, undeviating measures for the advancement of so good a cause, you are as sure of success as of human existence. So many learned and professional men have recently flocked to the Thomsonian standard; so many presses long closed by the interested influence of the regular faculty, are now opening their columns for investigation and defence of truth. These circumstances, with the multiplied instances of superior successfulness, augur the high standing and rising glory of the system.

We have to controvert stubborn, incorrigible prejudices that sometimes refuse to be reclaimed from the error of their ways by the strongest testimony. The simplicity of the Thomsonian practice works its way by demonstration; but there are some minds so inflated by the pride of vain philosophy, so chained to antiquated traditions, that they conceit that the new system of medicine, which Thomson has devised, patented and published, is beneath a critical examination. They condemn by wholesale, without searching honestly into the real merits of the subject. With all the discouragements we have to encounter, the progress of Thomsonianism bids fair to bear down opposition and introduce a radical and universal change in medical practice. A new era has commenced; the light that now dawns will ultimately radiate the remotest corners of the civilized world. An high sense of duty, and the strong emotions of humanity impel us to address you explicitly and zealously on the momentous concerns of the Botanic institution. The attention of this magnanimous nation begins to be turned seriously to the subject.

Many are the afflictions that await

us in this dying world. The epidemic disease that has desolated some of the fairest portions of Asia and Europe, and recently prevailed in our own country to a fearful extent, prompts us to proclaim to mankind, in this official manner, fully sensible of our high responsibility, the consolatory tidings, that the Thomsonian system prescribes a safe and effectual remedial course for the removal of disease in its most terrific form, where the power of life is not reduced beyond the reach of medical assistance. The Botanic system of Dr. Samuel Thomson has stood the test of popular scrutiny, the ordeal of implacable persecution, the ridicule of the mineral Faculty, and the terrors of the law, "smiled at the drawn dagger and defied its point."

This U. S. Convention beg leave to assure their constituents and the world, that they have not spared any means in their power, to make full proof of the Thomsonian system of medical practice. They had in turn individually to contend with their own prejudices and unbelief; they fearlessly assert that those prejudices have been subdued by innumerable facts which they could not gainsay, or any longer resist. They anticipate increasing opposition from the regular faculty; that they are under the influence of interested motives, is easy to be understood. The firm stand of this convention to withstand these speculative schemes, will subject them to ridicule, reproach, and if possible, as has often been the case, to legal prosecution.—We know that it is the cause of truth and righteousness we plead; we therefore earnestly beseech the people to consult their own rights, attend to their own interests, give the Thomsonian system fair play, investigate its merits, and test its efficacy as they may have opportunity. When disease overtakes you, resort to simple Botanical remedies—spurn at the mineral practice, and all the poisonous drugs that disgrace the annals of medicine.

The convention are fully apprised that several attempts have been made to supplant Dr. Thomson and filch from him his remedies and hard earned fame, they therefore recommend CAUTION and VIGILANCE; these are the watch-words of Thomsonians; they wish to preserve

his system from a heterogenous amalgamation with the reformation projects of those designing individuals, who wish to depose Thomson, that they themselves may rise and make gain by their medical soothsaying; fly therefore from all such imposters, as you would shun a serpent's tooth.

The convention, in concluding this address, would humbly and honestly assure the world they have no sinister motives to influence their conduct in relation to this matter; no groveling antipathies, nor envious jealousies; no earthly inducements under heaven to pervert the truth and turn aside to falsehood and deception. We wish to consult the well-being of mankind, wherever their lot may be cast, whatever their religious or political profession, or whatever their circumstance or condition in life may be. Should sickness assail them, we wish to direct them to cheap, safe and appropriate means for the removal thereof, and to repair the waste of animal nature. They seriously question the correctness of that philosophy that teaches that those poisons that are calculated to kill a well man, can be proper means to make a sick man well. With high consideration and esteem, they remain the avowed friends of mankind. Farewell.

On motion, the Convention adjourned till 2 o'clock, P. M.

Thursday, Dec. 20, 2 o'clock P. M.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

On motion, Dr. Thomson was requested to deliver a lecture on midwifery, and by a desultory course, to endeavor to communicate such verbal instruction in relation to his general system of practice as suited his convenience and disposition, as far as consistent with his ultimate designs of disposing of such discoveries, in connexion with, or distinct from his former publications, as they did not assume to be his dictators.

With this request Dr. Thomson declared his willingness to comply. The convention were agreeably entertained by the originality of thought, and of the manner of illustration displayed on the occasion; every ear hung with eager attention on his instruction. Such was the general satisfaction, that on motion,

it was unanimously resolved, that the thanks of the convention are due to Dr. Thomson for his valuable communications, but especially for his intelligent and interesting address on midwifery and child-bed forms of disease.

At the request of the convention, the President was solicited to deliver a lecture on the same subject. In compliance with the request he proceeded in an extempore address, embracing a wide range of the various incidents attending gestation, parturition &c. In conclusion he enlarged on the importance of the Thomsonian system, in ameliorating the condition and alleviating the sufferings of the female world, in the perils and dangers to which they have been subjected in those critical periods of their existence—evinced a tender sympathy for the hapless fate that had so long awaited them, and a cordial congratulation at the brightening prospect of more propitious days, when the dark cloud that lowers o'er them in the original threatening shall be measurably blown away, and the bed chamber of parturition, instead of being a gloomy hall of excessive grief and affliction shall become a sanctuary of increasing consolation, that shall keep pace with the progress of discoveries and improvements in all succeeding generations.

This extempore lecture, embracing a wide field for communicating information, obtained, not only by an extensive reading of medical classics, but more than forty years extensive practice and actual attendance on more than a thousand cases, was heard with much interest; a flattering resolution of thanks to the author, was unanimously awarded by the convention. A detail of these proceedings was directed to be placed on the minutes. The convention then adjourned to the state house, to meet at early candle light, to hear a lecture from Dr. S. Robinson.

THURSDAY, 20th Dec. 7 o'clock, P. M. The convention being accommodated with the use of the state house for the evening, met agreeably to adjournment. Public notice having been previously given, a very splendid concourse of gentlemen and ladies, citizens and strangers, members of the Legislature and other gentlemen of distinction at-

tended on the occasion. As the speaker commenced, a breathless silence reigned through the vast assemblage—every eye was watching—every ear listening—every heart dilating with pleasing sensations as the strong tide of the speaker's eloquence rolled its magic influence round the Hall of State, sacred to law, truth and justice.

Dr. Robinson having closed his lecture, and the convention being called to order, On motion, it was unanimously

Resolved, 1. That Dr. Robinson is entitled to the most cordial thanks of this convention, for the spirited, judicious and eloquent oration with which they have been so agreeably entertained, and if it suits the convenience of the Doctor, the convention respectfully solicit a copy to be furnished for the press.

Resolved, 2. That Dr. T. Hersey is entitled to the thanks and respectful acknowledgments of this convention for the talent, faithfulness and precision with which he has presided over their long and interesting deliberations.

On the unanimous passage of this resolution, Dr. Hersey arose and made the following valedictory address:—

Gentlemen: It was with much diffidence I accepted the appointment of the Presidency of this convention---I have endeavored to discharge the duties incumbent on me in that official capacity with fidelity and precision, and I feel peculiar gratification in having obtained the approbation of this august intelligent assemblage of the delegates of the Botanic Society in the United States. I congratulate the convention and the society at large on the constant accumulation of talents, and men of high and honorable standing, who are rallying round the peaceful standard of the Thomsonian system. We feel happy to announce to the world the social

harmony and mutual good will that has prevailed in all your deliberations. The principles and practice of the Thomsonian scheme appear to be every where sustained with a unanimity that has seldom, if ever, obtained among so numerous a body of citizens, dispersed over such a vast extent of territory. A steady adherence to first principles establishes the cause on an immutable basis. In these we seek not improvements, from these we spurn all reformation---auxiliary remedies for disease that accord with these principles, whenever such auxiliaries can be ascertained, lead us not to abdicate the cause but confirm and sustain our confidence in the founder of this institution. We should try the spirits of the age, and by ingenious well directed efforts, conscientiously endeavor to suppress that speculative rage, that leads a number of persons to sacrifice truth and jeopardise the health and lives of the people at the shrine of personal popularity and emolument. This love of money, that blinds the eyes of many, who once appeared zealous advocates of the system, but have turned aside after the mammon of unrighteousness, should be discountenanced with a manly philosophic firmness, that the apostatising wanderers after filthy lucre may be ashamed and confounded. As you have selected the Thomsonian Recorder to be the mouth piece of the society, it will be important to give it a decided patronage, as you have resolved to do, that it may not share the fate of other periodicals that have been started in divers sections of the American Union. There are several periodicals of more limited circulation to which we wish honorable support, long life and prosperity. It will be much for the interest of the cause to give them an honorable support.

As you have honored me with the appointment of Secretary of general correspondence of the Society, to all



the branch societies in these United States, to collect, collate and make public, whatever may subserve the general interest, I shall endeavor to be attentive and faithful in the discharge of the duties that devolve on me in the arduous and responsible station to which I have been promoted by the unanimous suffrages of this enlightened and respectable convention.

You will bear with you to your respective places of abode, my best wishes for your personal welfare, and the prosperity of the system. I have been drawn into the acknowledgment and adoption of this system, in subserviency to my own convictions of the innocency, efficacy and certainty of the remedies prescribed, for the removal of disease. More than forty years of my life have been devoted to the ancient and regular practice.—Ten years have been spent in investigating the merits and ascertaining the justness of the claims of this system on public confidence. A partial leaning was the first step; the result was a mixed practice, which I soon discovered could not succeed; I discovered I must be a Thomsonian altogether, or abandon the cause. I resolved on the experiment on the joint testimony of my own impartial experience and the testimony of others on whose information I could rely without suspicion.—The result has been that thus resolutely pursuing this course, I was really astonished at the success.—This rivalled any thing with which I had ever been acquainted in domestic practice, or in my former official capacity of surgeon of the U. S. Army, or any private or public station I had ever been called to fill.

To enter minutely into a labored detail of incidents, connected with this conversion to Thomsonism, would be uninteresting and useless—I know that in these concessions and this de-

votedness to the botanic system, I forfeit the good opinion of many reputable friends and literary acquaintances, but those who know how highly and cordially I esteem a multitude of these, will be fully convinced that I could never have been induced to have risked this forfeit, or endanger that friendship and confidence, from any less motive, than the conscious and unavoidable impress of truth—were they to make the same impartial investigation, with truth alone for the object, and could they have access to the same weight of testimony, I candidly believe, if the influence of mere self interest could be banished from their minds, we should have a large accession of converts.

I am happy to learn from the most unquestionable documents, that Thomsonism is extending its benign and salutary influence through the United States—many of the learned professional characters, of preeminent standing are not to be deterred from espousing the cause; many physicians whose literary attainments would do honor to any institution, boldly espouse and defend the system—others like some ancient disciples, who approached the Messiah by night, for fear of the Jews, support the cause in a more covert way—events are ripening fast—a momentous crisis in medical practice is standing at the door—the lancet, calomel, nitre, antimony, arsenic opium and blisters, must prevail or they must be laid aside.—Thomsonians wish not for any legal indulgence in the use of these deleterious life depressing articles. They are willing to be restricted in the use of these, they are willing to be confined to botanical remedies and those exclusively. In the use of these remedies amidst all oppositions, the success tramples on authorities and powers, it travels gloriously and victoriously,

and never shrinks from the severest scrutiny. This is not the time nor place to enlarge on this interesting theme.

Remember in your retirement to give every facility to your secretary in the discharge of his official duties—give the information required, which it is your interest and ours to communicate—your origin, age, number, discoveries, important cases, successfulness, competitors, persecutors, and comparative views of the effects of the ancient and modern practice, will furnish abundant matter for your heads and pens.

The moment of our adjournment has now arrived.—A moment big with the fate of Thomsonism and the world. If we behold each other no more in this vale of tears, may we meet in that world, where the plant of renown shall infuse immortality in man. The physician shall be needed no more, for none of the inhabitants of that world shall ever say he is sick.

On motion, it was

Resolved, III. That the proceedings of the convention be published in the Thomsonian Recorder, as soon as it can be done with convenience to the publishers, and that five thousand copies ought to be published, that a number of persons may be supplied that are not subscribers to that work.

On motion, it was

Resolved, IV. That this Thomsonian botanic convention of the U. States, be adjourned to the second Monday of October, 1833, to be convened at Pittsburgh, Penn., and that all the branch societies in the United States, be invited to send delegates to represent them, and that timely notice, additional to this, to excite general recollection, be given in the Thomsonian Recorder.

Convention adjourned.

THOMAS HERSEY, Pres't.

S. ROBINSON, Sec'y.

P. G. YOUNG, Ass't. Sec'y.

## APPENDIX.

No. 1. The following extracts from *Inquiries concerning the INTELLECTUAL POWERS, and the investigation of TRUTH, on the uncertainty of medicine*, by JOHN ABERCROMBIE, M. D. F. R. S. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburg, &c. and first Physician to his Majesty in Scotland, is referred to on page 157 of this number.

“There has been much difference of opinion among philosophers in regard to the place which medicine is entitled to hold among the physical sciences; for while one has maintained that it “rests upon an eternal basis, and has within it the power of rising to perfection,” it has been distinctly asserted by another, that “almost the only resource of medicine is the art of conjecturing.” “The following apologue,” says D’Alembert, “made by a physician, a man of wit and of philosophy, represents very well the state of that science.” “Nature,” says he, “is fighting with disease; a blind man armed with a club, that is, the physician, comes to settle the difference. He first tries to make peace; when he cannot accomplish this, he lifts his club and strikes at random; if he strikes the disease, he kills the disease; if he strikes nature, he kills nature.” An eminent physician,” says the same writer, “renouncing a practice which he had exercised for thirty years, said, “I am wearied of guessing.”

The uncertainty of medicine, which is thus a theme both for the philosopher and humorist, is deeply felt by the practical physician in the daily exercise of his art. It becomes, therefore, an inquiry of the utmost importance,—what the sources of this uncertainty are—where that point is in our researches at which its influence begins,—and, when we arrive at this point, what the means are by which it may be diminished.

The perfect uniformity of all the phenomena of nature, we have seen to be the foundation of the certainty of results in physical science. For when the order and relations of these phenomena's have once been ascertained, we calculate with confidence that they will continue to observe the same order. Proceeding upon this confidence, in relations which have been observed regarding the heavenly bodies, the astronomer foretells their positions even at very distant periods. In the same manner, the chymist, having ascertained the actions which take place when certain substances are brought into contact, and the new combinations which follow, decides with confidence that, in every instance in which these agents are brought together, the same actions will take place, and will be followed by the same combinations. This confidence, which lies at the foundation of all science, we have seen to be an original or instinctive principle, and not the result of experience; but it is the province of experience to ascertain the particular sequences to which it may be applied; in other words, to distinguish casual relations and sequences from those which we are entitled to consider as uniform.

The uncertainty of medicine resolves itself chiefly into an apparent want of that uniformity of phenomena, which is so remarkable in other branches of physical science. There are, in particular, two departments of our inquiries, in which we feel continually the effect of this want of uniformity—the characters and the progress of disease, and the action of external agents upon the body.

Since medicine was first cultivated as a science, a leading object of attention has ever been to ascertain the characters or symptoms by which particular internal diseases are indicated and by which they are distinguished from other diseases which resemble

them. But with the accumulated experience of ages bearing upon this important subject, our extended observation has only served to convince us how deficient we are in this department, and how often, even in the first step in our progress, we are left to conjecture. A writer of high eminence has even hazarded the assertion that those persons are most confident in regard to the characters of disease whose knowledge is most limited, and that extended observation generally leads to doubt. After showing the uncertainty of the symptoms which are usually supposed to indicate effusion in the thorax, Morgagni adds the remarkable assertion to which I here allude: “qui enim plura corpora inspexerunt, hi saltem, cum illi nil dubitant, ipsi dubitare didicerunt.” If such uncertainty hangs over our knowledge of the characters of disease, it will not be denied that at least an equal degree of uncertainty attends its progress. We have learned, for example, the various modes by which internal inflammation terminates—as resolution, suppuration, gangrene, adhesion, and effusion; but in regard to a particular case of inflammation which is before us, how little notion can we form of what will be its progress, or how it will terminate.

An equal or even a more remarkable uncertainty attends all our researches on the second head to which I have referred, namely, the action of external agents upon the body. These engage our attention in two respects—as causes of disease, and as remedies; and in both these views the action of them is fraught with the highest degree of uncertainty. In regard to the action of external agents as causes of disease, we may take a single example in the effects of cold. Of six individuals who have been exposed to cold in the same degree, and so far as we can judge, under the same circumstances, one may be seized with

inflammation of the lungs, one with diarrhoea, and one with rheumatism, while three may escape without any injury. Not less remarkable is the uncertainty in regard to the action of remedies. One case appears to yield with readiness to the remedies that are employed; on another which we have every reason to believe to be of the same nature, no effect is produced in arresting its fatal progress; while a third, which threatened to be equally formidable, appears to cease without the operation of any remedy at all.

With these complicated sources of uncertainty, which meet us at every step in our medical inquiries, it is almost unnecessary to contrast the perfect uniformity of phenomena, on a confidence in which we proceed in other departments of science. When we mix together pieces of zinc, sulphuric acid, and water, we pronounce with perfect confidence, that the water will be decomposed, hydrogen evolved, the metal oxidated, the oxyd dissolved, and sulphate of zinc produced; we pronounce with equal confidence on all the properties, mechanical and chymical, of the new compound which is thus to be formed; and in no case have we the smallest doubt of the exact occurrence of every step in this complicated process.—With what feelings we contemplate, in its commencement, a case of dangerous internal disease—its probable progress and termination, and the effect which our remedies are likely to produce in arresting it—those best can tell who have most experienced them.

The certainty of a science, as was formerly stated, depends upon two circumstances; namely, the facility with which we ascertain the true relations and tendencies of things, or trace effects to their true causes, and causes to their effects; and the confidence with which we rely on the ac-

tions, dependent on these relations, continuing to occur in all cases with perfect uniformity. This confidence we easily attain in those sciences in which we have to deal only with inanimate matter. We do so by means of experiments, in which, by placing the substances in various circumstances towards each other, we come to ascertain their true tendencies with perfect certainty, and to separate them from the influence of all associations which are only casual and incidental. Having thus discovered their tendencies or actions, we rely with confidence on these continuing to be uniform; and should we in any instance be disappointed in the action which we wish to produce, we are able to trace the cause by which the expected result has been prevented, and to obviate the effect of its interference.

In both these respects we find in medicine a degree of uncertainty which marks a striking distinction between it and the purely physical sciences.

There is great difficulty in medicine in tracing effects to their true causes, and causes to their true effects. This difficulty has already been illustrated by the same cause appearing to produce in different instances different diseases, or no disease at all; and by a disease seeming to subside under the use of a remedy which, in a similar case, fails to produce the smallest benefit. When we find our researches thus encumbered with uncertainty, we cannot as in other sciences clear them from the influence of casual relations, by means of direct experiment; but are obliged to trust chiefly to the slow course of observation, as the relations happen to be presented to us. Hence, just conclusions are arrived at slowly, and we may be obliged to go on through a long course of observations, before we arrive at any results which we

feel to be worthy of confidence.-- Hence also arises the great temptation to grasp at partial and premature conclusions, from which medical science has suffered so much injury. For when such conclusions are brought forward with confidence, as long a course of observation may be required for exposing their fallacy as might have been sufficient for ascertaining the truth. In this respect we see the remarkable difference between medicine and the purely physical sciences; as, in the latter, a single experiment may often be sufficient to overturn the most plausible hypothesis, or to establish one which has been proposed only in conjecture.

Even after we have ascertained the true relations and tendencies of things we are constantly liable to disappointment in medicine, when we endeavor to produce certain results by bringing these tendencies into action. This arises from the silent operation of a new order of causes, by which the phenomena of disease are varied and modified; and by which the action of external agents is aided, modified or counteracted in a manner which altogether eludes our researches. The causes which thus operate are certain powers in the living body itself, the action of which is entirely beyond our control; and others arising out of the peculiarities of age, sex, temperament of body and mind, and mental emotions; constituting a class of agents of a most powerful kind, of which it is impossible to estimate the combined operation. It is further to be kept in view, that these various agents may be acting together, or in opposition to each other, or under a variety of combinations; and that in reference to our attempts to act upon the body by remedies, they may be operating in concert with, or in opposition to these attempts. Hence arises a most extensive source of uncertainty in all our investigations, of which it is im-

possible to calculate the effect, or the extent. Hence also arises that apparent want of uniformity in the phenomena of disease, by which we are so much impeded in our researches; and that want of uniformity in the action of remedies, by which our efforts in medicine are so often disappointed.

Another source of uncertainty in the practical art of medicine is the difficulty which we find in applying to new cases the knowledge which we have acquired from observation.— This application is made upon the principle either of experience or analogy. We are said to proceed upon experience when the circumstances in the new case are the same as in those cases from which our knowledge was derived. When the circumstances are not the same, but similar, we proceed upon analogy; and our confidence in the result is weaker than when we proceed upon experience. The more numerous the points of resemblance are, the greater is our confidence, because it approaches the more nearly to that which we derive from experience; and the fewer the points of resemblance, our confidence is more and more diminished. When, in the practice of medicine, we apply to new cases the knowledge acquired from others which we believe to have been of the same nature, the difficulties are so great, that it is doubtful whether in any case we can properly be said to act upon experience, as we do in other departments of science. For we have not the means of determining with certainty, that the condition of the disease, the habit of the patient, and all the circumstances which enter into the character of the affection, are in any two cases precisely the same; and if they differ in any one particular, we cannot be said to act from experience, but only from analogy. The difficulties and sources of uncertainty which meet us at every stage



of such investigations are, in fact, so great and numerous, that those who have had the most extensive opportunities of observation will be the first to acknowledge that our pretended experience must, in general, sink into analogy, and even our analogy too often into conjecture.

In a science encumbered with so many difficulties, and encompassed by so many sources of error, it is obvious what cause we have for proceeding with the utmost caution, and for advancing from step to step with the greatest circumspection.

*Extract from same work, page 23.*

"Why one medicine acts upon the stomach, another on the bowels, a third on the kidneys, a fourth on the skin, we have not the smallest conception; we know only the uniformity of the facts."

*Extract from page 30.*

"The scientific physician well knows the difficulty of ascertaining the true relations of those things which are the proper objects of his attention, and the uncertainty which attends all his efforts to produce particular results. A person for example, affected with a disease, recovers under the use of a particular remedy. A second is affected with the same disease, and uses this remedy without any benefit; while a third recovers under a very different remedy, or without any treatment at all. And even in those cases in which he has distinctly ascertained true relations, new causes intervene and disappoint his endeavors to produce results by means of these relations. He knows, for example, a disease which would certainly be relieved by full operation of diuretics; and he knows various substances which have unquestionably diuretic virtues. But in a particular instance he may fail entirely in relieving the disease by the most assiduous use of these rem-

edies; for the real and true tendencies of these bodies are interrupted by certain other causes in the constitution itself, which entirely elude his observation, and are in no degree under his control."

#### APPENDIX, No. 2.

This is a choice and valuable article, at least, we do not doubt but it was *once* so considered; how far time and circumstances *may* have altered it in the *eye* of a certain person we will not decide.— That it was a ~~SETTLEMENT~~ without the perplexity of *payment* as in ordinary cases, we think will not be denied. Let it speak for itself.

Columbus O. 7th month, 9th 1829.

Agreeably to the Article of Agreement between Samuel Thomson and his agent Horton Howard, the said Howard has printed about two thousand nine hundred and forty sets of English books, including ninety-five sets which the said Thomson furnished Howard with at the commencement of the said Howard's agency; (one half the cost of printing the said ninety-five sets of books having been paid to Thomson by Howard,) which are sold or in the hands of agents to sell; also, about four hundred and seventy-five sets of German books, mostly on hand; and said Howard has also another edition of about three thousand in the press.

One hundred of the above number of two thousand nine hundred and forty sets of books, with the accompanying rights, have been settled for by the parties, and are to be deducted out of that number at a future settlement.

The parties have also settled all other accounts, excepting the cost of printing the books printed or caused to be printed by Howard, and all other expenses attending the promotion and extension of the said Thomson's system of medical practice.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands, the day and date above written.

SAMUEL THOMSON.  
HORTON HOWARD.

## NO. 3.

## ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT &amp;c.

Between SAMUEL THOMSON, of the one part, and HORTON HOWARD, of the other part, WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, On the twenty-eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three; a patent was granted by the United States of America to said Samuel Thomson, for an improvement, being a mode of preparing, mixing, compounding, administering and using, the medicine described in said Patent, in the manner and in the diseases mentioned in said patent, which will appear by reference to said Patent, in the public records of the United States.

Now, I, the said Samuel Thomson, do hereby authorise and appoint the said Horton Howard, as my agent in and for the State of Ohio, to do and perform for me, and in my name, the following acts and doings, under the aforesaid Patent:

1. I, the said Samuel, do hereby authorise the said Howard, for himself, to use, administer, sell and dispose, of the medicine secured by Patent aforesaid.

2. I do also empower the said Howard, as my agent for the State of Ohio, to sell to heads of families and others, the right of administering and using said medicine, within the state of Ohio and elsewhere.

3. I do also empower the said Howard to appoint and authorise others, as his sub agents, to sell and use and dispose of said medicines to heads of families, and others, within this state and elsewhere.

4. I do also empower the said Howard to print, publish, sell, and dispose of, and to authorise said sub-agents to sell and dispose of any books and pamphlets to which I, the said Samuel, have a copy right in.

Hereby authorising and empowering the said Howard, to do all acts and things for me, and in my name, either by deed or act, as I myself can do and perform, by virtue of the Patent aforesaid, in and about conveying and disposing of family rights and authorising sub-agents to act under him, and to do and perform all things relating to the

premises. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25th January A. D. 1827.

P. S. The said Thomson agrees, and it is expressly understood, that should the said Horton Howard die before the expiration of the said Thomson's patent within referred to, that the business committed to the said Horton Howard by the within power, is to be continued to the sons of the said Howard, or some one of them, to the end of the term aforesaid, as exclusive agents, with the exception of that part of Ohio, east of Cuyahoga river, and north of the south line of the Western Reserve.

## NO. 4.

The following extracts may possibly cast some light on the subject and show the *real* objects for which the Enquirer, was published, & how far that paper was devoted to the Thomsonian cause, for which those "expenses of the Enquirer" and charges in favor of H. D. Little, &c. &c. were made.

From the National Enquirer, Dec. 18, 1828.

## THE LAST OF THE ENQUIRER.

This paper is the last number that will be issued from this office under the title of "The National Enquirer." From the want of sufficient patronage (especially advertising custom) to defray the great expenses incurred in the publication of a paper of the size of the Enquirer, the publisher is under the necessity of discontinuing it. It is his calculation, (as will be seen by reference to a prospectus, in a subsequent column) to publish a paper hereafter, of a different character and dimensions, which will be furnished to present subscribers, until the expiration of their subscriptions: And for which he respectfully solicits the support of the public.

Such of our subscribers, as are indebted for the last year's subscription, are requested to forward the arrearages to the publisher.

✶ The Agents of the Enquirer, and others who may feel friendly to the undertaking, are respectfully requested to obtain subscriptions to

the proposed new works, in a subsequent column. The prospectuses may be cut from the paper, and attached to a white slip of paper, for receiving names.

FROM THE SAME.

TO THE PATRONS OF THE ENQUIRER.

Circumstances having compelled the publisher of the *Enquirer*, to discontinue its publication, the ties which heretofore existed between us, as Editor and reader, are about to be dissolved. On the eve of closing my Editorial career, among you, it may not be deemed improper, to cast a retrospective glance at the course which has been pursued in conducting the political department of the *Enquirer*.

It is needless, at this period, to animadvert upon the rise, progress, and success, of that class of politicians, which has so recently risen up in our country, and spread their banner in the cause of an *individual*, instead of arraying themselves on the side of liberal principles and public interest. That many of them have been honest in their devotion to Gen. Jackson, I entertain no doubt; but that a large majority of them have been actuated by some personal interest, or individual expectation; or have been directed in their opposition to the present administration, by disappointed ambition, and restlessness of spirit, cannot with truth, be contradicted.

The measures pursued by Mr. Adams, and his Cabinet, have been such as the situation of a great and rising state demanded—measures, which received their embryo existence during the administration of our great national and political father, GEORGE WASHINGTON; and have been gradually progressing under the patronage and protection of the wisest and most patriotic statesmen of our country.

While pursuing these great measures to a happy accomplishment; endeavoring to extend an equal protec-

tion to all the different classes of our citizens, and every section of the country, and bringing into active operation the ingenuity of the American people; the present administration has met with an opposition, which nothing but the firmest political integrity, and the warmest devotion to the public good, could have successfully encountered. But with a singleness of purpose, it has pursued its course, towards the fulfilment of its great duties; eager to embrace whatever might conduce to the public prosperity; and vigilant to oppose and overcome whatever might tend to embarrass or destroy the happiness of the nation.

Entertaining these views, the truth of which is evidenced by the present unexampled prosperity of the country, I have believed it to be the duty of every true patriot; every good man; every honest citizen, to discountenance the untiring, and merciless opposition, which has attempted to retard the measures of the government, and to destroy the hard-earned characters of some of the brightest political stars in the galaxy of patriots and statesmen.

The crisis of the times demanded something more than a sluggish manifestation of displeasure, or a feeble condemnation. It called for an open, a manly, a determined denouncement of those principles and doctrines, which the subtle and restless politicians of the new school, were instilling into the minds of the honest yeomanry of the country. It was a contest for PRINCIPLE, on the one hand, and for POWER on the other: and in its progress it combined all the bitterness and acrimony of the wildest party spirit.

Although it was not the original intention of the editor, to engage in the politics of the day, yet, when he saw the noblest institutions of the government attacked, by men claim-

ing the exclusive character of Republicans; when he witnessed an attempt to raise to the Chair of State a person known to his fellow citizens, only as a successful *soldier*, he could no longer withhold his feeble services from what he believed to be the cause of his country. Under these considerations I entered the field, not as a *party* soldier, but as a defender of the interests of the Republic. In conjunction with a very respectable portion of the citizens of the United States, I have been politically defeated; and in accordance with genuine republican doctrine, I am willing to submit it to the voice of the majority, constitutionally expressed. I rejoice that I have had the honor of serving in the cause of the present Administration; because I believe that it has served the country faithfully; and that whatever administration may succeed it, will be under the necessity of pursuing the same system of policy in order to subserve the public interest, and become the favorite of the people.

It is to be hoped that the friends of the Administration of Mr. ADAMS, will continue to stand firm and undivided; and that while they give their cheerful support to the judicious measures of the administration about to be formed under the auspices of the President elect, that they will watch with a vigilant eye, every act which can possibly tend to lessen the public prosperity; and remonstrate against every exercise of power, which may be attempted, not warranted by the Constitution.

With these remarks, I take leave of the Patrons of the Enquirer, wishing them prosperity and happiness, in both their public and private concerns.

HARVEY D. LITTLE."

FROM THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER--EXTRA  
To the Patrons of the Enquirer, and the public in general.

In the first introduction into the Western country, under my Agency, of the Botanic system of Medicine, discovered by, and patented to Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, it was thought to be essentially necessary to the extension and protection of said system, that a newspaper should be established, having for its primary object, the accomplishment of these important purposes. With this view the National Enquirer was presented to the consideration of the public.

Perhaps no discovery was ever made, so eminently calculated to advance the sum of human happiness, by relieving the diseases to which mankind are subject, as the medical discoveries of SAMUEL THOMSON, the modern *Hippocrates* of the healing art. And assuredly, no philanthropic design, ever met with so virulent and unceasing opposition as the one in question. Without investigating its principles, or even witnessing its effects, the public mind was deeply prejudiced against it; and every idle rumor of its dangerous tendency, was magnified by the self-interested and the ignorant portion of the community, into a horrid and murderous catastrophe. In order therefore, to effectually expose the fallacy of such proceedings, and inform the minds of the people upon this important subject I commenced the publication of the Enquirer at Columbus, about eighteen months since; during which period it is supposed, about *fifteen hundred* family rights, to use said system of medicine, have been disposed of, and some of the most extraordinary cures effected, known to the healing art. And after diligent and careful examination and correct observation, I assure the public that I know of no instance where I have reason to believe any injury has been done by the practice.

The Thomsonian system having become extended over a wide and populous section of country, and being very generally approved of, wherever its efficacy and beautiful simplicity are known, the intention of the publisher is

a great measure accomplished.—The Enquirer has accompanied it through its infantile stages, fostering and supporting it, until its superior advantages have been manifested, and its supporters become numerous; and from its own visible merits, it is now capable of abiding “the test of time, and the scrutiny of man.” It is therefore believed, that the necessity of continuing the paper, *solely* for its defence and support no longer exists: And the publisher has concluded for the present, to suspend the publication of such a work. But should it hereafter be deemed necessary to resume it, it will again appear before the public, to advocate its favorite subject.

It is probably recollected, that the publisher issued proposals, in the last number of the National Enquirer, for publishing a periodical paper to be entitled “THE CABINET.” Since that period he has received [and accepted] proposals, from his son HORTON J. HOWARD, the editor and publisher of the *National Historian*, at St. Clairsville, Ohio, and his son-in-law HARVEY D. LITTLE, the late editor of the *National Enquirer*, to consolidate the office of the Enquirer with that of the *Historian*; and to issue a paper, to be published jointly by said HOWARD & LITTLE, at St. Clairsville, in Belmont County. By this arrangement, the patrons of the Enquirer will be furnished, if they desire it, with a large *imperial sheet*, on terms as favorable as those of the Enquirer. The columns of the proposed paper, like those of the late Enquirer, will be open, when deemed necessary, to defend or support the principles and practice of the Thomsonian system.

Should a necessity however occur, as before observed, for publishing the proposed CABINET, it shall appear upon the plan laid down in its prospectus; and will be forwarded to the subscribers of the Enquirer.

Such of my late subscribers as have paid in *advance*, will be furnished with the *National Historian* until the expiration of their subscriptions. And such others as feel friendly to the contem-

plated consolidation paper, are respectfully solicited for their patronage.

HORTON HOWARD.

11th mo. Dec., 25, 1823.”

Extract from the Proprietor's Introduction to Robinson's Lectures.

### DOCTORS' LAWS.

The origin of these laws may be traced to a source, which not being known by the public generally, we shall endeavor here to point out, as it may appear strange to the people, that statutes should be passed tending to take away the natural rights of a free people, that were never thought of by any other government, even the most arbitrary. In the year 1809, the author and inventor of the Botanic System of medical practice was arraigned and brought to trial before the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, at Salem, for an alleged murder of a young man by the name of Lovett, whom he had attended in sickness. At this trial Judge Parsons presided: and after hearing the plea of the Solicitor General and the evidence on the part of the complaint, he addressed the jury, and stated that nothing criminal had been proved against the prisoner at the bar, that he had not transgressed any common or statute law; and cited Hale and Blackstone, to show that any man may administer medicine with an intention to do good, and if it had effects different from what he intended, and killed the patient, it was not murder nor manslaughter, for if physicians had to risk the lives of their patients, who would practice? that where there is no malice, no action can lie. The accused was accordingly acquitted.

The learned judge, however, not finding any law, either common or statute, to punish the accused, against whom he seemed to show very strong prejudices, saw fit to travel out of the ordinary duties of his station, and recommended an application to the legislature, to have a law made that should be suited to the case, by making one to stop quackery, as he called it, by preventing them from collecting their dues; and if this did not answer the purpose, to make their practising punishable by fine and imprisonment. A



very partial and incorrect report of this case was made by Judge Parsons himself, and published in the 6th vol. of Massachusetts Reports. That he was the author of the report, we have the evidence of Mr. Tyng, the reporter to the court.

This extra-judicial report being thus published to the world, the hint given by the Judge was seized upon by all those interested in putting down the Botanical Practice; and Legislative interference was successfully applied for to favor their views; and if the people could have been kept in ignorance, or had quietly rested under the yoke, it would have established, not only a complete monopoly, but an entire control over their natural and unalienable rights. From this source may be traced all these obnoxious and unconstitutional laws, and the numerous vexatious lawsuits that have been brought against those who have endeavored to benefit mankind by relieving the distresses of the sick, by a system of practice calculated to lessen the sum of human misery, and founded on rational and natural principles.

People of the United States, seriously ponder on and candidly consider this subject, and be on your guard against all those who seek for worldly fame and wealth without regard to the public good: and remember that whosoever endeavors to raise himself by a course detrimental to the health and happiness of society, is no friend to the welfare of mankind.

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## THE RECORDER.

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### COLUMBUS,

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SATURDAY, DEC. 20, 1832.

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#### TO OUR PATRONS.

The publication of the present number of the THOMSONIAN RECORDER has been procrastinated beyond our expectations. The proceedings of the Convention were more extensive than we were apprehensive until we commenced arranging the manuscripts, and transcribing them for the press. An entire new arrangement in relation to the printing office where the work had been

published, which we had not anticipated, a temporary indisposition of the Senior Editor, were incidents beyond our control, and unavoidably retarded our operations.

In order to relieve our subscribers of the oppressive tax of postage, with which they have been burthened, we design in future to issue each number in a single sheet of only sixteen pages, that will be transmitted to our readers at the same rate as newspaper postage. A volume of this work will contain 624 pages, the same as contemplated at the beginning. Subscribers will therefore be furnished with as many numbers annually, as will complete the whole number of pages we at first proposed, and at less expense. Our patrons will think may calculate a little upon our liberality, especially if found prompt in their remittances. We determine to equal, if we do not exceed the expectations excited by our prospectus. We intend, on the completion of a volume, to furnish a title page and copious index, or table of general contents. Our subscription list is rapidly increasing and the daily accumulation of talent and influence to the Thomsonian standard, carries dismay into the ranks of an interested opposition, and should inspire us and our patrons, to double our diligence, and to give a long pull, strong pull, and a pull altogether, until the cause shall be permanently established in the understanding and affections of this magnanimous and enlightened nation.

Original essays and communications relating to, and comporting with the general design of this publication, will be thankfully received, and punctually attended to, when written in a style and spirit worthy the pages of the Recorder.

We would remind our readers that we are now using a smaller type, than we did for several of the first numbers; by this arrangement every page contains at least one fourth more matter than formerly.

Every possible effort will be made to convey as much information as we can at the smallest expense, for which the important object can be effected. All our agents for selling Thomson's Books and Rights, will please to consider

themselves as agents for the Recorder. All the numbers can yet be furnished entire from the commencement. All mistakes that have occurred, or that may hereafter occur, in relation to the direction and conveyance of the numbers respectively, we shall endeavor promptly to rectify, as fast as we can ascertain the requisite information. Agents who transmit information, and give the names of new subscribers, should inform us at what number they wish to commence, or whether they have disposed of all the numbers on hand and wish us to forward the whole set. Any number or numbers in which any subscriber may find himself deficient will be supplied on application made to the Editors, so that those who wish to preserve the work, can have all the numbers complete. Agents having numbers not disposed of, should carefully preserve them, that the sets may not be broken, and always to inform us correctly what numbers are wanting.

The trial of Francis Burk before the City court of Baltimore, on an indictment for manslaughter, by administering Thomsonian remedies, is a little work of much interest, that is deserving the attention of both the friends and enemies of the system; it is for sale at the Bookstore of Thomas Johnson in this place.

The following are extracts from a few of the many communications which we are daily receiving from our distant correspondents. They need no comment, for truth is mighty and will prevail.

Rockville; Ia. Dec. 24, 1832.

Messrs. Pike, Platt, & Co.

I have received the two first nos. of the Eclectic, with an extra, or Dr. Howard's address; in which he complains very much of Dr. S. Thomson's hard usage, and gives a very flattering tale about his improved system. He said he would send the first two Nos. to some that was not subscribers, and no more unless advanced payment, I then will get no more. Dr. Howard, must recollect that I was a subscriber to the enquirer; and have his advertisement's yet, and take them for my guide. He says "not more than one or two in a

thousand can be found that are dissatisfied." He further says, "suffice it to say, that they mostly or all, were influenced by disappointment in extravagant emotions, or by selfish motives," and I think that Dr. Howard may be classed with the latter.

Jefferson co. E. T. Dec. 25; 1832.

Gentlemen—

Dr. Jesse Elias, Howard's Agent, is kicking up a monstrous dust about Howard's great improvement, it puts me in mind of the mountain in labour, and the result was a mouse. Howard has sent me three of his Eclectic's, which I have perused, but I can't be convinced to quit the fountain and drink of the stream, for the fountain is certainly the purest, for as the stream leaves the fountain it will be more or less adulterated. I should have been at the Thomsonian convention; but I had the sick to attend to,

Baltimore, Dec. 18, 1832.

Messrs. Pike, Platt & Co.

I am Dr. Thomson's firm friend and advocate, he had cause from the commencement of his glorious career in medicine, to believe that there was villainous enough who would be willing to rob him of his hard earned fame and living; but hitherto he has been protected by the Great Disposer of events, who called him unto usefulness, for the purpose of reforming the abuses of medicine, and I feel a confidence that he will still be protected—but inasmuch as the Lord chooses to work by means in other matters, so in this, and I claim it as my high prerogative to lend a feeble hand in so great a cause.

#### ADVERTISEMENT—TO THE PUBLIC.

All persons who are using my system of practice, or parts thereof, by way of pilfered books, or are partakers in the base iniquity of the pilferer or pilferers for the sake of having my property cheap, cannot be acknowledged as Thomsonians, neither can we consistently advise with them, as with honest men, in cases of sickness. They cannot derive any protection from the legal privileges secured by patent to me and my lawful agents. If prosecuted for mal-practice, or for the viola-

tion of any state law in relation to practice, they must work their way alone amidst all difficulties. They will be liable to ~~60~~ SIXTY DOLLARS FINE ~~40~~ for each and every trespass on my right whenever I may be disposed to prosecute for the same.

The public are cautioned against employing or encouraging any one who shall pretend to use such improvements with my system of practice, as I will not be accountable for any mal-practice of any such persons. Also, against using the *painted* and *poisoned* CAYENNE from the shops, which when burned on a stone, or shovel will leave a mass commingled with the ashes, black as ebony, while the genuine CAYENNE affords ashes of the color of common vegetable ashes. The facts were demonstrated in presence of a majority of the Botanic Convention. If the people want Thomsonian cures, they must employ Thomsonian doctors—they must use Thomsonian medicine. A pilfered right, a counterfeit practitioner, poisoned medicine, neglect of steam, affords poor prospects to the parties concerned. Those who disapprove of steaming for the removal of disease, must be ignorant of its efficacy as confirmed by the testimony of thousands who have witnessed its salutary effects, and I consider them destitute of a knowledge of the causes of life and motion. Those who have been attended to by Thomsonian Practitioners should be careful how they employ regular physicians afterwards, as it is more generally fatal than otherwise, and a fatal result will always be attributed to the Thomsonian practice. I would admonish all Thompsonians to be faithful, attentive and persevering with the sick—keep good medicine, and administer it as I have prescribed: if by negligence, inattention, or want of medicine, or by misusing and confounding the practice; or by lack of confidence, or by negligence and inattention on the part of the patient, there should be a failure of success, and you should be superceded by a regular practitioner, and he should succeed and affect a cure where you have abandoned; if an instance of this kind can be found in ten thousand cases, he would yelp and bay

like a hound pursuing his game. The innumerable instances of Thomson's successfulness triumphing over the failures of the regular faculty are banished out of sight, treated with the disgusting affectation of that contempt that every one feels when born down by the acknowledged superiority of a rival competitor. These hints and cautions are intended for good to all persons concerned, who will do well to regulate their conduct according to the advice of their unfeigned friend

SAMUEL THOMSON.

N. B. I shall do every thing that I possibly can do, to separate my system of practice, and keep it entirely distinct from every thing extraneous from, or foreign to it, and to place it in the hands of such faithful agents, if they can be found, as will not only do me justice while living, but such as will do my system and the public justice, when I shall be no more. S. T.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Dr. Samuel Thomson having been frequently informed that a report was industriously circulated in many places of the United States, that his patent had expired, would respectfully assure his friends, that an enemy has done this. His patent was renewed in January, 1823, and is alive, and alive like to be as he is now about to renew the same with all his additions and discoveries of more recent date, which he now sincerely hopes will give new energy to the system and more effectually enlarge the sphere of its already extensive usefulness. He determines on pursuing a course to suppress innovation, prevent imposition and seduce those drivelling impertinent beings who have trifled with his former publication, and abused the trust that has been committed to their charge. The proceedings of the convention call for the prompt attention of the Branch Botanic Societies through the United States Agents will please to exercise much vigilance in relation to intruders on my legal rights and privileges, and make report accordingly. My interest and the prosperity of my system, are identified with the welfare of my friends. If any turn aside to fables, follow not

after them. When you buy the truth, do not dispose of it for falsehood and deception. S, T.

### MEDICAL SWEARING.

On the trial of Mr. Francis Burk, before Baltimore city court, on an indictment for manslaughter, by administering to Benjamin M. Hazelip, certain Thomsonian remedies, Dr. Cole and Professor Geddings, three gentlemen of the regular faculty were put on oath, at the instance of the prosecution. Men of such high and honorable standing, extensive erudition and medical fame, we might well suppose, would have had some adequate knowledge of the subject on which they were examined, and some competent apprehension of the moral nature of an oath.





In the investigation of the case before us, we quote our information in relation to the facts, from a pamphlet printed at Baltimore, by James Lucas and E. K. Deaver, 1832, being a narrative of Burk's trial &c.

In looking over the testimony of the witnesses, our feelings were much excited—a chill of horror ran through our veins. What man of sensibility and reflection would not shudder when contemplating the oath these gentlemen had taken, in connexion with the IGNORANCE and PRESUMPTION manifested in various items of their testimony. IGNORANCE did we say! Charity would urge us to hope, that it might be possible that ignorance might hold her sombre screen, to shield their guilty heads from the sin-avenging arm of insulted Heaven!—But, if a man swear positively that he saw the sun rise in the north, on Christmas morning—that he knew it to be the sun—that he had seen it so before, and was well acquainted with the fact and all its circumstances, could he find a satisfactory apology for his guilt by saying—"I was mistaken—I did not know any thing to be wrong in my testimony at the time it was given—I was really ignorant of the facts, but revolved the matter over so often in my mind, that I really did think it was all true, just as I stated, and I shaped my oath accordingly." Would not the attempt to offer such an apology be an aggravation of the crime? We

notice, however, these regular doctors, sustained by their erudite Professor, Dr. Geddings have not yet made any apology for their scandalous offence against the laws of christian morality, not to say violation of any civil statute—those who are better acquainted with the municipal laws of Maryland are better able to decide than we are.

These learned REGULARS must be excused; the prisoner was a Thomsonian; medical men and their coadjutors were crying loudly for his blood; they appeared willing to release every Barabas in the Penitentiary, to effect his crucifixion. The object in view was all-absorbing—the end to be effected was of such vital consequence to the privileged order, that it would justify any practicable means for the accomplishment of the stupendous design.

It is time for us to turn to the testimony, as they have delivered it to us, without stopping a moment to enquire whether these sons of medical arrogance and presumption wear straws in their shoes or not.

Reader, reflect a moment, regulate your phiz, compose your nerves and muscles, Dr. Cole is wide awake and on the stand. Doctor you are now sworn; turn to the Jury and relate what you know of the case now pending—Hark! he speaks! Silence in court, ye jurors all give ear. "They" (Thomsonians,) says Dr. Cole, "have a POWDER  No. 6, given as an injection with lobelia." Again, "They" Thomsonians "have a POWDER  they use, which they call No. 6, *I have seen it!*" Such testimony does not require any comment. What confidence would an intelligent court and jury repose in any thing they might depose? For ourselves we are unbelievers in his new doctrine of medical transubstantiation, We cannot persuade ourselves that the compound tincture of Myrrh, *alias* Thomson's No. 6 is a POWDER  or that he ever saw such a POWDER  which Thomsonians "call no. 6." No Sir! this a sheer fabrication! His assertion, "*I have seen it*," must silence all enquiries.

A regular doctor has sworn to it, and that is just as well as if it was all true! We are less disposed to question

the validity of the testimony of this man Cole, though he contradicts Thomson and all his disciples throughout the world, because he has told us the surprising tale of a patient of whom he said, "I felt her pulse—it was laboring under CHOLERA. How he knew with so much precision, whether the pulse was laboring *under* the cholera, or the cholera laboring *under* the pulse, we will not now undertake to decide. How he knew certainly by the feeling, that it was cholera that was laboring, or rather, we should say, that it was the pulse that was laboring under the cholera, is pretty much of a puzzle. If it was the pulse that was laboring under the cholera, it must have been the cholera he felt, for the pulse was *under*. He must have decided exclusively *by the feeling*. The circumstances were these: the patient was "a female, in French alley, in a back room; it was too *dark* in the room," says he, "for me to see much of her situation. I then left her; Burk said she recovered." This last circumstance is the most extraordinary of all, as she had been visited by a regular physician.

All the circumstances of the case lead us to the conclusion, that Knapp may be one of those water smellers, who, with wizzard skill, can develop all mysteries. By smelling and feeling, all the combined powers of this giant in knowledge were brought to bear heavily on the case;—and from his decision we shall not pretend to make any legitimate appeal.

Dr. Cole confirms his testimony:—"They," Thomsonians, says Dr. Cole, "have a POWDER, they call No. 6. I am well acquainted with it."

Here are two barefaced falsehoods, asserted on oath, if the pamphlet published in his own city does not lie; and the latter greatly aggravates the former.

Thomsonians have no such POWDER. He has never seen such a powder, and of course did not know any thing about it.

In relation to the *post mortem* examination, professor GEDDINGS swore,—"I have heard what Dr. Cole has sta-

ted; it is substantially the same as I should have expressed. **WE ALL CONCURRD IN THE EXAMINATION.**" Whether there was any previous concert and "concurrency" in relation to what it would be best to swear to, that their testimony might be substantially the same, to make sure of Burk's condemnation, it might appear invidious in us to hazard even a floating conjecture.

Their ignorance of the medical properties of lobelia and cayenne, appears to be so notorious and unquestionable, that we are induced to say, that had we been situated as they were, we should have reflected that we were testifying under the solemnities and awful responsibilities of an oath!

Silence the Court!! Attention kind reader! Dr. Potter is coming to the stand. Dr. Potter you are now sworn, turn to the jury and inform them **WHAT YOU KNOW** in relation to the prisoner at the Bar and his practice in the case of Hazelip.

Dr. Potter proceeds, "Hemlock is a poison, I KNOW IT WELL. It grows three or four feet high."

Well done Potter—you have made your debut against Thomsonians. Did you mean to insinuate that Burk had given Hazelip any of this poison hemlock? or that Thomsonians use it? If you did, were you ignorant of what you were attempting, or was it a malicious and intentional falsehood? A man of your talents ought to know the difference between the cicuta of the shop and the hemlock bark of the tannery yard. We have seen Hemlock 150 feet in height, perhaps higher, and four feet diameter at the stump. This is Thomsonian hemlock. We know your cicuta is a deadly poison—we doubt not but that you know it well and use it liberally.

**ERRATA.**—The reader will please to insert the name of Cole, instead of Knapp, wherever it occurs on these two last pages. Knapp has been inserted in some copies by mistake; but as there was but a small package, and that forwarded to Baltimore, it can be rectified where rectification is most necessary.



# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense."

Vol. I. . COLUMBUS, FEB. 2, 1833. No. 8.

A CHAPTER OF LIFE,  
Or, concise physiological hints of the  
laws of animalization, supplimen-  
tary to a *Cholera Chapter*... (See  
page 132.)

BY SAMUEL THOMSON.  
EDITOR'S PREFACE.

Doctor Thomson having occasionally placed divers manuscripts in our hands, on the perusal thereof, we were much delighted. In order to avail ourselves of some of his peculiar ideas, we commenced culling them over, and collecting what lay scattered through those diversified materials into a regular form, so as to constitute a continued regular essay on the subject, that might be useful to others as well as to ourselves. The ideas as here submitted are strictly his own. In general the language is his own—as nearly so, as accorded with our original design in collecting and collating from those extensive and truly valuable manuscripts. We have sometimes, though seldom varied the expression, making something like a repetition, but designed only for illustration. The doctor has ever been more anxious to speak plainly and intelligibly, than to put on the appearance of a learned or educated man—to this he never has made any pretensions. Having selected and arranged this essay from his papers, we presented it to him for examination, and notwithstanding he could have wished to have had it presented to his readers in a more condensed and concise form, yet being sensible that we had not mutilated his ideas, or done any injustice to the subject, he has consented that it should appear from the press in its present form. We claim no merit

for ourselves—he is strictly and undeniably the author of this "*Chapter of Life*" as here published. In making these selections and the arrangement from such numerous and fruitful materials we might have succeeded better, but the Doctor nor ourselves could find the leisure. It was written under all the embarrassments and disadvantages named in the essay, Sec. 49, for which we shall not now attempt any further apology. The Doctor reserves the privilege of correcting at any subsequent period, any error in thought or expression, that may incautiously have found its way into the present publication of this interesting chapter.

## A CHAPTER OF LIFE, &c.

1. Clearly to understand the laws of life and motion, the radical principles of animalization is of infinite moment. Without some adequate views and conceptions of these, the nature of disease cannot be correctly understood, neither can we have knowledge to prescribe a rational, safe, sure and certain remedy for the removal of disease when found in the human system.

2. Through many long and tedious seasons these subjects had revolved in my mind, before I could form what I considered a correct opinion. I witnessed many distresses in the family of man; my heart was pierced with many sorrows, until my mind was established in those simple truths that have laid the foundation of my practice that has been so successful in subsequent years.

3. Persecution raged against me—all the presses in the country were closed against me—Priests, doctors, lawyers and legislators were combined against me—*Ex post facto* laws were put in operation—prosecutions

commenced---false witnesses arose---bigotry, prejudice and superstition, like Salem witchcraft, waved their magic wand, but all in vain—truth has prevailed. The darkness of the ancient philosophers is passing away and those simple truths, which are the genuine *Philosophy of life*, and the fruits of the labours of my life, begin to prosper beyond my former expectations.

4. As I have never been a man of extensive reading, and make no pretensions to school learning and book knowledge, if medical or philosophical writers have taught the same doctrines before me, it is what I am not apprised of. It is for the truth of the doctrine, and not for any claims of reputation as an original writer, that I would more strenuously contend.

5. When Napoleon stood in arms and was acknowledged Emperor of France, the nations were frightened—when a prisoner, the kings of the earth trembled for fear of him—they dared not to suffer him to go at large on main land, but assigned him a more safe retreat in the solitudes of St. Helena.

6. The writer is aware that the success of his system has carried equal terrors into the ranks of medical opposition. Their malice and persecution that brought him to the dungeon and chains, were the fruits of envy and fear. I have driven the College faculty to fly to law-legs to stand upon, because the strong tide of public opinion, confirmed by testimony, set so heavily against them, that they had no other way to rise over the steam doctors and keep them down.

7. The difficulty appears to have been that the steam faculty were, in many instances, so inclined to receive instruction, that they became natural philosophers in faith and practice. Following nature, they were successful practitioners—they

could relieve distress and remove disease, when by the regular college doctors, hundreds were hurried to their long home.

8. Among those physicians called regular, I have found many who have appeared to be as ignorant of the laws of life and motion, and how the functional powers of life are kept in operation, as though they themselves had never possessed an animal body.

9. I have now commenced a chapter, *separate discourse*, or **SERMON**, if you like that name better. It will fall to my lot to shew that my text is one that has never been preached from before by any man, also, that there never has been a sermon preached without it, and when the text and sermon are fairly before you, and correctly understood, a philosophical reason can be assigned for the cause of life and motion in all that lives and moves.

10. My text is recorded in the mouth of every thing that breathes. ☞“BREATHING”☞ is my text. If it has been a text for textuarians before, it is unknown to me. They may have treated on respiration, but if they have not understood their subject, they might as well have been silent. If any dispute the first proposition, they will sustain the second, and contend with me that a sermon has never been preached without it.

11. *Breathing* is a demonstration of the existence of *animal life*. The principle of life has been thought to be *SUPER-natural*; leave out the *SUPER* and say the cause of life and motion is *natural*, perfectly and entirely natural, and we will concede to the truth of the assertion.

12. The cause of breathing, or of animal life and motion, or of breathing and motion where there is no animal life, we shall carefully examine. Steam machinery are propelled by steam, which is a species or kind of breathing: these possess not the capacity for animalization.

13. In animal or human bodies the constituent or component parts are essentially the same in beast or man. Animal bodies are composed of earth and water; these constitute the substances, dimensions, shape and size of bodies, &c. and give or constitute solidity in what are denominated *solids*. These elements being constituted of various, still more simple elementary principles which may be subdivided, again and again, does not militate more against our position, than the infinite divisibility of numbers by decimal arithmetic, destroys the unity of numbers.

14. *Fire* and *air* are properly the fluids that pervade and fill and actuate the living animal; their operation is life—the elementary principles of life, that keep the animal machine in motion—where heat is extinct the animal is dead. *Heat and air* combined, are so modified in the living moving animal, as to constitute the living state, and justify the assertion that cold and inaction is a state of death, or rather death itself, and a specific degree of heat and motion so combined and modified is the essential principle of life in the living animal, yea, rather life itself.

15. Waving all the minutia of chemical divisions, and subdivisions, in simplifying elementary combinations, that constitute *BODIES dead or living*, the four great original elements of *air, earth, fire and water*, contain and comprise all the more simple elements of which they may be respectively composed.

16. A specific association, due proportion, mixture or combination of these four great elements, in an organic animal body, constitutes the living state, and prolongs life; an improper disproportionate combination and modification destroys life.

17. To illustrate the nature and cause of respiration, or breathing of the living animal, we will refer to the

operation of fire and water. Put a skillet of cold water over the fire, in a few minutes examine it by immersing your hand therein; you will perceive the first warmth of the water is on the top or upper surface; the coldest water is at the bottom of the skillet, nearest to the fire; the reason is, as soon as it becomes warm it becomes rarified and lighter, and rises; just in proportion as it grows warm it becomes active, until it is all in a fluttering, fluctuating state of ebullition, and wastes by steam, sweat or breath, perspiring or respiring until it will all evaporate—this shows that heat rarifies and lightens water.

18. The subject may be further illustrated by reference to the effect of heat on the atmospheric air. You build your house in the open atmosphere—the house is filled with air within—the air within is a counter-balance, or resistance to the weight or power of the surrounding air without; the balance within and without is equal in *coldness and inaction*, resembling a state of death. To produce action, motion or breath, build a fire in the house, the doors and windows being closed in the usual manner, in a few minutes every door and window begins to hum and sound the march of air. The air within becomes rarified and lighter than the air without, the air without presses in at every crevice to restore or form an equilibrium with the air within; the hotter and stronger the fire, the stronger will be the current of *breath*, or force of *breathing air*—as the heat diminishes the noise and *breathing current* of air will decline in force of operation, and the noise and motion will cease when the heat becomes extinct and the equilibrium is restored.

19. The effects of heat, rarifying and lightening the water and air, and occasioning a breathing motion, resemble and illustrate in some good degree, the breathing, sweating and functional motions of the animal machine. The constituent or component parts of men's bodies, give organic shape and size and form the functional structure or organization to the machine. The peculiar

mixture, composition, proportion and modification of these elements constitute its aptitude or adaptation to the animalizing influence of FIRE *lightening* air and exciting breathing motion, and all the concatenations of motion connected with this original or primary action, all evincing that heat is an essential principle of life, and cold, or an extinction of heat is death.

20. A still-born child was resuscitated by placing the PLACENTIA or after birth, on live embers, still connected to the child by the umbilical cord or naval string, and as the after birth began to heat, and had gained warmth sufficient to begin to fill and dilate the naval cord with warmth and moisture, it was stripped towards the body of the child, and through this medium, a sufficient degree of warmth was conveyed to the body, the lungs expanded and the life was restored. This may serve in some measure to illustrate and confirm our ideas of life and motion.

21. "In every thing that breathes, the breathing is from the same general cause. The *principle* of life and motion is radically the same in all animated bodies. As I have said in my supplement to the last edition of my New Guide, so I here repeat the fact, "Without heat there is no breathing: but when heat is continually generated or evolved in a confined room, excepting at one avenue, *as in the lungs*, there must be breathing, or what is the same an inhaling of cold air and an exhaling of a gaseous vapour from them."

22. Every animated body has its proportion of caloric or heating principle, suited to its size, adopted to its nature, proportioned to that degree of living power requisite to keep up the operation of all the animal functions, essential to the perpetuating of the peculiar specific form and mode of being in such animal.

23. The heat of animal fire, or that degree and condition of it that constitutes the living state of animalised existence, is maintained and continued by a suitable supply of appropriate fuel, or materials that are naturally adapted to that end or use, THESE ARE FOOD AND MEDICINES. These harmonise with each other in their salutary effect, or natural influence on animal bodies.

24. Food and medicine originate from the same munificent hand, grow in the same field, and are adapted to the same end or design viz: to supply fuel to the fire of life, to sustain and nourish the animal machine, by warming, dilating, filling the vascular system maintaining the action, and supplying the wasting powers of the living state. Medicine removes disease not only by removing obstructions but by restoring and repairing the waste and decay of nature.

25. On these supplies our life depends, viz: the continuance of that state of warmth and action which constitutes the living state. When food is masticated and taken into the stomach: the process of digestion commences. By the warmth and action of the organs of digestion and the gastric juices, the food is decomposed or consumed like fuel consuming in a fire. The breath and perspirable vapour, are the smoke arising from this fire. The fecal matter of dejections are as the ashes or earthly substance remaining after the consumption of fuel.

26. To understand the cause and nature of life and death, or of warmth and motion of cold and inaction, it is necessary to advert to general principles, and the analogies of nature.—There is one general cause of the natural sensation of hunger, and one general method to relieve that want, or satisfy and relieve that sensation.—Suitable food relieves hunger when taken into the stomach.

27. In perfect accordance with this, there is but one immediate cause of disease—however varied the remote cause may be, the immediate cause of the sensation of disease is uniformly and invariably the same, differing only in degree, and incidental diversity of symptoms, occasioned by local injuries, organic lesion or functional derangement dependent on these, or whatever might predispose to a diseased state.

28. As there is one general cause of the sensation of hunger, to be relieved by one general method, viz: by food, and this food may consist of sundry articles adopted to the same general end, so there is one general, or immediate cause of the sensation of disease, to be relieved or removed upon one gener-

eral principle, though a variety of articles may be used. But as a few simple articles of diet are better suited to maintain an healthy state of body than an epicurean variety; so disease is more readily and certainly removed by a few simple remedies, that are best adapted to the human constitution.

29. That medicine that will most readily and safely open obstructions, promote perspiration and restore a salutary operation of the digestive powers, by exciting and maintaining a due degree of heat and action through the system, is best suited to every state or form of disease, and must be universally applicable to a diseased state of the human system.

30. Thus I have given a summary view of the outlines of my conceptions of the construction and elementary composition and constitution of the human body in a living state, whether healthy or diseased. The power or faculty of breathing is a capacity or condition to be acted on with effect, rather than any inherent power or faculty of acting. *Heat rarifying and lightening air excites respiration—rarifying and lightening water excites perspiration. Rarifying and lightening air and water, the vapour of breath and sweat are produced and thrown off.*

31. By heating water in the stomach we lighten the air in, and expand the lungs—the weight of the cool condensed and weightier external air, presses out the light and rarified air; these circumstances of the living state of the animal body, occasion the alternate contractions and dilations of the lungs, that constitute the action of breathing, indispensable to the living state.

32. By heating water in the stomach and air in the lungs, we put the steam engine into operation. The operation of the animal machine strongly resembles the mechanical operations of the steam engine. Some of the fundamental principles of action are the same. In inspiration cool fresh air is inhaled, in respiration the rarified lightened air and vapour are exhaled or thrown off, out of, or from the *steam pipe*. This action by which steam is expended, the whole machinery of the living animal are kept in operation—the great fountain pump of the heart is kept in play, and

pumps the blood through the lungs and arteries to the extremities, deep in the flesh and near the bones, which is returned in the veins. The warmth and action commencing at the fountain are propagated through the system to the remotest extremities.

33. So long as the fire keeps up that state and degree of warmth essential to the living state of the animal body, or to speak figuratively, so long as the fire is kept good in the boiler, to keep the engine at work, so long the pump will go.

34. Our regular meals supply regular fuel to keep up animal heat, as the regular teasing and tending a fire with wood will keep it burning. Drink supplies the boiler with water, which creates the steam: condensed water is discharged through its natural channel.

35. On these principles of the philosophy of life we may expect a regular well formed machine to continue its operations, until worn out, or broken by the indiscretion and bad management of the engineers.

36. If the machine be entrusted to the management of an ignorant incompetent engineer, who has no correct conceptions of the principles of life and motion, and is negligent in the discharge of his duty, your *steam-boat*, if I may so speak, will begin to fail in its speed, for lack of fuel to keep up the fire and water to supply the steam; or the engineer may conclude *the cholera* affects the machine, and will cast ice into the boiler to cool it down, or tap the boiler as a preventive or remedy, and draw off the hot water—his boat begins to sink rapidly down stream. This is often done by the lancet.

37. If you would keep your steam-boat's *steam-breath* motions going on, keep up a supply of water in the boiler, and a supply of fuel to keep it sufficiently warm; raise the steam and the actions of life will proceed regularly.

38. Concerning the doctrine of a *vital principle* diffused through the whole organic structure of the animal machine, inducing an elementary mode of union, or specific union of the component elements, differing in nature from all chemical union and affinities, and from all the laws of physical union with which we are acquainted, we



would just observe that this subject has employed the minds and pens of many talented writers, who have cast but little valuable light on the intricate theme.

39. When we are asked what constitutes a living fibre, we might as well ask what constitutes any other property of living matter. What constitutes that in which the life of a leaf or stem, of a living tree consists.... "What can we reason, but from what we know?" Every living thing, has something peculiar to the nature, or life with which it is endowed in the living state, whether vegetable or animal---but a living animal has heat and motion; without this animal heat and motion the animal becomes dead---without a due proportion of heat inward and outward, or outward and inward there is no animal motion, no animal life.

40. We know not of any vital principle, except a capacity to be brought into that peculiar mode, state and degree of warmth and action, constituting animalization or the sensitive living state of animal bodies.

41. Warmth and action do not constitute animal life, in unorganised matter---they do not constitute animal life without an organised animal structure to which heat gives the impulse applied to and connected with the animal structure, caloric or the principle of heat rarifying and lightening air, excites action, which circumstance of being, constitutes animalization or the living state.

42. Warmth and action, do not constitute animal life, only as applied to, connected with, and exercised in an organised animal body, possessing a capacity inherent in its nature to be put in operation, in which state or condition of being, sensation, perception, and consciousness of identity, or individual existence are gradually developed: but these circumstances of life are not life itself---there may be animal life, viz: breath and

motion, in an animal body where these functional powers are totally deranged or utterly extinct.

43. Fire and steam are necessary to propel a steam boat, but notwithstanding the capacity or adaption of the mechanical structure to be propelled, the boat will not go until the fire is kindled and the steam raised to put it in motion.

44. The animal body is a machine so constructed, so modified, endowed with such a capacity for life, call it vital principle, or what you please, that heat rarifying and lightening air, stimulating and expanding the lungs, puts the machinery in motion, and pumps the tide of life through all its crimson channels. This combination of circumstances constitutes the living state of the living animal, for where these circumstances do not exist there is no animal life---the animal form is dead.

45. Suppose a man in all the vigor of life falls into the water and sinks, in a few minutes he is taken out apparently dead, the warmth and motions of life, if not extinct, are at a low ebb---as soon as you can kindle up the decayed spark, and restore inward heat by medicine, friction, or any appropriate means, if the capacity for the action of life is not utterly extinct, an energy is given to the system, the air in his lungs becoming warm rarifies and expands and heaves them into action---the machinery begins to move---the wheels of life no longer wallow in back water---the proper state and proportion of heat inward and outward is recovered---nature rises to its wonted strength and vigor.

46. All that is requisite in such a case, is to supply fuel to raise the latent spark of the fire of life. The same holds good in a collapsed state of disease, whether it appears in a cholera form, or whatever shape it may wear. The vascular system

loses its wonted tone, the whole system is sinking--the power of life is unable to distend and expand the lungs; the heart and arteries no longer propel their contents by maintaining the requisite action. The spark of life is becoming extinct, the water that should breathe, exhale and perspire away, becomes congestively condensed and extinguishes the spark of living fire. The coolness and weight of the internal air is too much for the small degree of heat remaining in the lungs, heart, &c. the power of life, or rather the power or capacity to live, to keep the powers of animal life in their warm and moving, or living state, become measurably extinct. For lack of heat, the air in the lungs is not rarified and lightened so as to give the necessary action, &c.

47. In this case, shield the sufferers from surrounding cold air, by wrapping in a blanket, placing warm in bed, and gradually raising a steam around him, administer gradually, frequently, and perseveringly the warming medicines and giving injections, which all acquainted with my system will readily understand--proceed until you can gain a sufficient degree of inward heat to expand freely, to rouse the sinking, fainting, I might say drowning patient, to a proper degree of warmth and action; when they have pursued a proper course they will sweat freely; and when they crave food, give them enough to keep up the steam--the pump of life will begin to work freely, and the patient to rejoice in the warmth and action arising from the resuscitated powers of departing life.

48. Much has been said about drawing in the breath; but the fact is you cannot keep the *breath-air* out, so long as there is a due degree, or natural proportion of heat in the lungs; neither can you prevent the motion of the *pump-like* action of

your heart in its systole and diastole. But when the heat decays, or state of living warmth declines, the lungs begin to labour like a wheel wading slowly in back water. The pump has not power to roll the blood along the arterial canals, the pulse falter--the extremities grow cold--the blood that maintained the warmth, by its active circulation, recedes from the extremities--there is not heat enough at the fountain or boiler to keep up the steam, and continue the living action--blood settles in the veins, not being supplied and propelled by the pulsation in the arteries--the fire becomes extinct--the pump no longer plays at the fountain--the man dies \*\*\*\*\* for want of breath--for want of capacity to breathe, or because the inward heat is reduced below the living point. The proper and natural proportion and modification of the inward and outward heat, as they exist in the living animal, becomes deranged, destroyed, and life extinct. The disease is as contagious as though the man had been \*\*\*\*\* *hanged or drowned*!!!!

49. This chapter of life was thus far composed hastily amidst a great bustle of unavoidable business, preparatory for the Thomsonian National Botanical Convention, held at Columbus, on the 17th Dec. last. These remarks are not intended as any *apology* for the doctrine inculcated, but for the imperfect or defective manner in which it may be thought to have been defended.

50. It has been thought expedient to use some repetitions, that the leading ideas being variously expressed, might be more clearly illustrated, and easily understood by the common reader.

51. The regular faculty are requested to enquire, whether the depleting antiphlogistic practice that has been popular and notoriously mortal in its results has not been the cause of producing much disease, and many of the most fatal results that have attended on what

sometimes appeared in them. Such sores have sometimes been denominated *carcinomæ* and *carcinæ*, by the Greeks; that is, crab, or cancer. By the Romans, what we call cancer, they used to call *lupus*, the Roman name for wolf; because such sores eat away and devour the flesh like a wolf. "A cancer," says Dr. Thomas, "is an ulcer of the very worst kind, with an uneven surface, and ragged and painful edges, which spreads in a very rapid manner, discharges a thin, acrimonious matter, that excoriates the neighboring integuments, and has a very fetid smell, and which is usually preceded by a hard or scirrhus swelling of the part, if glandular." Nothing we have met with in surgical nosology is more indefinite than the attempts made to define cancer. Dr. Cullen places this genus of disease in the class *Locales*, and order *Tumores*; in plain English, local tumors; more simply, if not quite so classic, a *sore place*. He defines a cancer to be "a painful scirrhus tumor, terminating in a fatal ulcer." Any part of the body, says Hooper, in his quotations from Cullen, may be the seat of cancer; though the glands are most subject to it. Robert Thomas, M. D. under the head SCIRRHOUS AND CANCER, observes, "a scirrhus is a hard, knotty, and irregular tumor, in some glandular part of the body, sometimes fixed and immovable, at others less firmly attached, attended with darting lancinating pains of an excruciating nature, in it, together with an increase of size, and an enlargement very frequently in or about the parts affected. ☞ When the tumor suppurates and discharges matter, it is then termed a cancer.

The disease often remains in the occult, or scirrhus state, for some length of time, shewing itself at first like a small kernel of about the size of a hazel nut, which does not give much uneasiness; but in process of

time, the tumor becomes very considerably enlarged; has darting pains extending through its substance, and at length suppuration being formed, it breaks, and degenerates into a cancer. This is an ulcer of the worst kind, with an uneven surface, and ragged and extremely painful edges, spreading in a rapid manner to the surrounding parts, discharging a thin, acrimonious matter, which is very fetid and offensive, and sometimes is attended with a slight hemorrhage of blood."

It is useless to go into a long detail. We see the folly of so many different names for a tumor, or matterated sore. We see there is no exact line of demarkation between a bad conditioned ulcer and cancer. Every phagedenic ill-conditioned sore, which quacks and fools, and nostrum vendors, might christen cancer, is not entitled to so high and tremendous an elevation in those horrid forms of disease to which human beings are liable. Many tumors, by bad management, may be rendered cancerous. Eat out a wart, or small indurated tumor, or gland, with arsenic, or arsenic and sulphur, or arsenic and puccoon root, finely pulverized together, or apply any corrosive or caustic substance, to some such trifling complaint, and these cancer powders, as they are most properly called, will soon produce a cancer, or say, cancerated sore, or ulcer; it will become an eating, spreading, ragged, painful, burning, ichorous, or watery, running sore. It is high time the terror-rousing name of cancer was banished from the vocabulary of medicine.

In the cure of this severe scourge of mankind, many remedies have been prescribed, and high pretensions made; and many have been disappointed, and fell a prey to their own credulity, in the speculative, proud boastings, of cancer doctors. Old

Mr. S. on Muskingum, some thirty years ago, having a small hard lump in his under lip of no material importance, determined to go to the Monongahela river to a certain Dr. M. an arrant quack and popular cancer curer. He went—the caustic was applied. Many similar cases were in attendance; they were all dismissed with their tumors eaten out—and some, whose tumors were innocent before, their sores became cancerous. This was the case with Mr. S. who returned with a corroding, wasting, spreading ulcer, that in a few weeks eat from his lips until the jugulars of the neck were corroded. a hemorrhage ensued, and the poor old man bled to death. The multitude referred to above, retired each to his own home, remote from each other. They undoubtedly all reported great cures; and if they all died, in the solitude of their respective places of residence, who should circulate the tidings? If the doctor ever received the intelligence he would be silent as death, for he would not betray his own ignorance, or the imposition of his deadly practice.

Such has ever been the real character of the most noted cancer curers, when dragged into the light.

Doctor Thomson makes none of these dashing, impudent pretensions. In his "New Guide to Health," under the article *pipsisway*, or *rheumatic weed*, he very modestly observes,—“a strong tea made of this plant, tops and roots, is good for *cancers*, and all scrofulous humors, by drinking the tea and bathing with it the parts affected.” Under the head *cancer sores*, he has said more to the purpose in a small compass than we remember to have read any where beside, reduced to so small a compass. One remark is particularly luminous, and confirms much we have said: “In all sores of an eating nature, there is more or less canker, according to

their violence.” Whether we call it canker, corrosive humors, or decomposing state or condition of the edges and surfaces of the tumor, it conducts our minds into as accurate a conception of that peculiar state or condition of tumors, which it is proper to denominate cancerous, as any of the most elaborate commentaries and expositions we have ever read. Dr. Thomson's cancer plaster, which he sometimes calls a plaster of cancer balsam, he has tested to be a specific in many cases. The whole of his prescriptions are known to all acquainted with his works, and there is no occasion of repeating his directions here. But this is an age of reformation and innovation, and every man wishes to be, or at least to be thought to be, as wise, or a little wiser, than his neighbors. Among these modern competitors for improvements Joseph Baker fills the first niche in the wide arena, that stands open for all manner of two-footed animals and creeping things. Let him speak for himself:

**BLACK OINTMENT.** This he calls “a kind of wet fire to burn out cancers and the like.” His wet fire reminds us of the negro's white black bird: “Yes, Massa, white as de crow!” The recipe follows:

“Take 2 lbs. honey; verdigris, dyer's galls and copperas, each 4 oz. make all into a powder; then put them into an earthen pot, set it on the fire, keep it stirring; soon as it begins to boil, take it off and let it cool, otherwise it will become red, and will not be so good.”

Thus we have spread this wonderful secret before our readers, merely to satisfy their curiosity; and no doubt but that it is a severe prescription, and that often, like other cancer nostrums, the remedy would be worse than the malady. Howard, the self-styled reformer, and a real innovator, has recommended Thomson's cancer bal-

sam, his pipsisway, and butternut shucks; and has given several prescriptions; among these, an "ointment, or salve, made by boiling the common wood, or sheep sorrel in hog's lard." A new discovery, to be sure, as recent as the days of Culpepper. He recommends for cancer the following, without a name: "Take a pint of the juice of the leaves and roots of poke-weed, put it in an earthen pot, and set it on the hot ashes to simmer, for a short time; then mix it with a pound of fresh butter, burn it in a frying pan, and stir in it half a pint of finely pulverized gunpowder, and keep it over the fire till it flashes once or twice; after which, set it on hot ashes in a pipkin until it is well incorporated; when you have put it in pots, with a little alcohol on the top to prevent its moulding, keep it close covered for use." This ointment, says Howard, applied twice a-day, will kill the cancer, and entirely eradicate the roots.

As in the multitude of counsellors there is safety, so Mr. Howard seems to think that a multitude of remedies is the safest course:—"The following recipe," says he, "is for killing the roots and healing the cancer in a few days, which I have hitherto kept as an invaluable secret, but now make it public for the benefit of mankind;" of course we are not intruding.

"Take the expressed juice of sharp pointed dock and poke, roots and leaves, of each half a pint, put it in a lead vessel, and set it in the sun, in dog days, stirring it often until it becomes inspissated to the consistence of a thick salve, and cover it with a piece of dry bladder for use. Spread this ointment on a piece of dressed sheep skin, and apply it to the cancer twice a-day; which speedily eradicates the roots, and heals it: Observing at the same time, to give the patient a teacupful of the decoction of the bark of tag elder, which grows

along water brooks every where through the United States."

We shall not detain our readers to make comments. We hope you may never fall into the hands of those that are always trying experiments, and be doomed a wretched victim to sufferings, torments, disfigurations, and untimely death. These remedies appear to be boldly recommended; but when milder means succeed, we may not be under the necessity of resorting to rougher experiments. Our confidence in Thomson, in this, as in other cases, remains unshaken. Doctor Thomson's advice must never be forgotten: "If the system appears to be generally affected with the cancer humor, carry them through a common course of medicine, and repeat the same while attending to the sore." This advice Howard copies from Thomson; and while he has multiplied his remedial prescriptions, we are not able to say, with any certainty, that he has conferred any benefit upon the cancerated patient. If any of our readers should try to make Howard's *gunpowder balsam*, as we will now call it, when it flashes the second or third time, let them beware of a general explosion!!!

MED. FRIEND.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

An intelligent, reputable correspondent, at Lebanon, Ohio, under date of January 25th, 1833, observes, "I am much pleased with the Thomsonian Recorder, and hope it may receive a prompt patronage. I forward you but a few names. If I had a prospectus, I think I could obtain others. The Thomsonian cause is marching forward in this place. As a practitioner, I stand alone. I am unable to attend near all the calls I have. On this account the old school faculty get more business than otherwise they would do."



I have not yet learned the fate of our petitions for the repeal of the medical law; but, if our request should be overruled, as in former years, I should wish a petition of the same kind to be renewed, and a sufficient number to be issued from the press, and to be distributed through every county in the state, and the people to be stimulated through the medium of the Recorder, and other periodicals, to active diligence in obtaining subscribers. I am confident that a large majority of the citizens of Ohio have so much of a republican spirit remaining, that they will cheerfully and zealously unite in subscribing to a petition to put down such a shameful law as is now imposed upon them. The only plausible pretext for the existence of such a law, has been, that it is designed to counteract and suppress the prevalence of *quackery* and medical imposition. But, sir, the faculty can never believe us to be greater quacks than we believe them to be. WALKER defines a quack to be "a vain, boastful pretender to physic," and quackery implies "mean or bad acts in physic." Now sir, this is coming to the very point and pith of the debate. The question is, who are the quacks? The answer is, those who are guilty of mean or bad acts in physic. If to poison a patient until his tongue hangs out of his mouth, the teeth drop out, the jaw bones are destroyed, the muscles corroded, the glands inflamed, the throat ulcerated, and the intestines putrified, under a vain, boastful pretension of great skill in physic, does not amount to the most consummate quackery, I must confess I know not what "*mean or bad acts in physic*" are. But, if this be quackery, then the law professedly designed to guard against quacks has operated to establish a more thorough system of quackery than could possibly obtain any permanent standing without such legal protection. The

present law supports this dangerous system of quackery; all but quacks are oppressed by it. The law prescribes no limits, no rules, no restraints, upon their practice; they may practice as they please, but none who are unauthorized by law can collect any pay for his services.— True, the honest, upright man will pay his doctor without any compulsion by law; but, sir, the ROGUE, the unjust, covetous and ungrateful, the VILLAIN, will not. It is the VILLAIN the law protects and defends in his rascality. The law, to be just, should be calculated to coerce the unjust and dishonest to a course of propriety and uprightness. The medical law, as it now exists, serves to protect crime, sustain the rogue in his villany, trample on all the laws of humanity, and to tempt others to imitate their base example. It has a most demoralizing tendency.

People who have thought but little on this important subject, suppose that the medical law of this state is no more oppressive in its operation, than the rules by which the practice at the BAR is regulated. On reflection, it may easily be seen the cases are not similar. Among lawyers, there is no competition of sects;—their books are the same—their system is the same. All that the law can do relative to the admission of any gentleman to the bar, is, to guard against intrusion upon such rules.— However useful, or futile and worthless, such laws and regulations may be, they bear no resemblance to the law regulating medical practice in this state.

In medicine, there are many sects with their respective forms and rules; they abound with conflicting theories; they are every where condemning the theory and practice of each other. We will give an instance: Suppose a Thomsonian thoroughly acquainted with the various branches

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 Joseph Mitchell *Greenfield.*  
 Jesse Thomson *Fulton Village.*  
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*Fayette co.*

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 Dr. Jesse Harrison, *Drake's Creek, Sum-*  
*ner co.*

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 Robt. B. Armisted, *near Huntsville*  
 R. H. Brumby *Montgomery.*  
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 W. H. Crayens, *Columbus.*

Our friends are requested to for-  
 ward us the names of persons suit-  
 able for agents in such places as they  
 may deem proper where none are ap-  
 pointed. Our eastern agents, where it  
 is more convenient, can remit the a-  
 mount of their subscriptions to Dr.  
 Thomson, Boston Mass., whose receipt  
 will be the same as ours.

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense."

Vol. I. COLUMBUS, FEB. 9, 1833. No. 9.

## CHOLERA, CHOLERA MORBUS, &c, EDITOR'S PREFACE.

In giving the following essay an insertion in the Thomsonian Recorder, the Editor's do not assume any responsibility for any of the theoretical peculiarities of the ingenious writer. Our object is to elicit truth from whatever source it may be derived. Truth is the material with which we wish to build. The spirit of enquiry, and deep research is rousing from her ancient slumbers. Truth like a mighty river, bears down all obstructions. Error, falsehood and detraction, may impede its progress, but the stream swells and must ultimately, break down every opposing obstacle.—Many ancient superstitions are on a rapid decline. The pride of antiquated philosophical prejudices, betray the dotage and imbecility of age. Theories, that through the long vista of preceding generations, sat on peerless thrones, begin to totter on the verge of the mighty grave that swallows all the busy tribes of flesh and blood. The regular faculty, from the mountain heights to which they have been wantonly elevated, begin to shout one to another "*our craft is in danger.*" Their parchments and Doctorates cannot protect them from the discerning eyes of the surrounding world. The deep political foundations their hands have laid, are crumbling down to dust, or evanishing in fog, vapor and smoke. "The imbecilities of all human policies, to conceal from man the knowledge of his rights and privileges, and to deprive him of the enjoyment of them, are becoming more and more evident every day. Many are running to and fro, and knowl-

edge is increasing in the earth.—This is an era of tremendous revolutions.—Events unprecedented in the annals of earth and time, are ripening for the birth. The world is in travail—changes and revolutions await the labors of men, "expectation stands tiptoe," revolution succeeds revolution, in perpetual succession. The mountains sink, the valleys rise. Philosophical tyranny that had entailed a long dark night of mental darkness begins to vanish. Imposition has mistook its way—The scales of tradition are dropping from men's eyes. The press that has been made an engine of aggression in this land of freemen, begins to demonstrate its invincible prowess to dispel the gloomy clouds of error, and pour the light of a new day upon the nations of the earth. In the firmament of medical science a new star has risen of the first magnitude. In him we plainly see the truth of his own assertion. "There is a power beyond the reach of art, and there are gifts which study and learning can never rival." The author of the subjoined numbers is a Thomsonian. His testimony in relation to Thomsonian remedies, for the removal of disease, is an honorable support to Dr. Thomson's much admired and extraordinary system of botanic medicines. We ask for our author a candid and patient perusal; we solicit neither the adoption nor rejection of his ideas in relation to vitality. Dr. Thomson's chapter of life is before the public. Metaphysical hairsplitting makes no part of his system. We hope our worthy correspondent will continue his contributions, embellished with his usual candor, and as free of all that sa-

Dr. A. I.  
Elder J  
Joseph  
Jesse  
John  
San

D.  
S.  
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P  
I

... as may be consist-  
... simple truth.  
... considerations, we  
... to the history  
... extraordinary cures  
... to Mr. Howard, and thou-  
... of equal importance  
... with HIM "these cures  
... with what are termed  
Thomsonian medicines; a name now  
employed to a great extent in a general  
sense, to distinguish innocent botanic  
remedies from those which are poison-  
ous, either Botanical or Mineral: and if  
there be any thing honorable to Dr.  
Thomson in this distinguishing botan-  
ic medicine, we think him worthy of it,  
as he was the first individual who com-  
menced the present revolution in medi-  
cine, and which will eventually change  
the whole poisonous practice; for which  
he is entitled to the lasting gratitude of  
the whole civilized world!" Amen!  
Mr. Howard! If Thomsonian remedies  
have and can effect such cures, Thom-  
son has a resistless claim on our confi-  
dence, patronage and gratitude. What-  
ever auxiliary support we can give  
shall be promptly afforded.

Whatever increase of light may radi-  
ate our path will be cordially received,  
but to travail off to the right hand or to  
the left, to hunt for some other course,  
in pursuit of the fairy bauble of reform-  
ation is foreign to our purpose. While  
sketching this preface for the press,  
the heart cheering tidings has reached  
us from the hall of Ohio Legislation,  
that the law regulating medical prac-  
tice will most unquestionably be re-  
pealed by a large majority in the lower  
house, and we have no doubt the mag-  
nanimity of our enlightened senators  
will confirm their decision. We shall  
hail the welcome day with ineffable satis-  
faction—the last shadows of those feu-  
dal clouds that have lowered round the

fair horizon of our western world are  
passing away. The star spangled ban-  
ner displays an increasing brilliancy,  
and we anticipate the day, when no  
vestige of oppression shall remain,  
when the banner of our equal rights  
shall wave triumphant through the  
United States, and shed a benign in-  
fluence round the habitable world. We  
had almost forgotten we were writing  
a preface to a short essay—we have  
wandered a little from our first inten-  
tions, but will trespass no longer on  
the patience of the reader, but respect-  
fully introduce him to our author.

### CHOLERA, CHOLERA MORBUS, &c. NO. 1.

When a country is threatened to be  
overrun by a formidable enemy, which  
would enslave the whole population, it  
behooves every man, who loves his lib-  
erty, and that of his fellow countrymen,  
to rise, and march against it with the  
firm resolve of "liberty or death."  
What then must one do, when he sees  
his country about to be overrun by a  
frightful pestilence, which cannot be  
checked in its terrible ravages, and  
that no plan is yet known whereby it  
may be arrested or impeded in its pro-  
gress? Does it not behoove also every  
man to look about, and try to find some  
means of security for himself as well  
as for those around him? Would it not  
be cowardice and false delicacy which  
would make one keep silent, when he  
knows a plan, which if put in execu-  
tion, would either destroy the enemy  
or greatly weaken its power, because  
the plan should have been overlooked  
by the superior officers? would not that  
man be placed next to a traitor for re-  
maining silent? I think so! Permit me  
then, Mr. Editor, to lay before your  
readers some ideas, which I will not  
call altogether original, yet, which  
have either been overlooked or neglect-  
ed by the Medical faculty, and which  
the people are ignorant of, as well as  
many of the faculty also.

The great disparity and contradic-  
tory remedies used and recommended

for the cholera, proves to me that the true one is not known generally, and that they are not founded on the unaltering laws of vitality, and the practice not based upon any true system. I have read many statements, many opinions, and many reports, but I have seen none which pretended to define the true cause of the disease. The effect of the cholera has caused the faculty to split their opinions as various as there are individuals. I shall not undertake to expose the fallacy of any, nor even to enter upon the discussion of the false principles which have given birth to the injurious practices. It will not be denied, that if the practices are not injurious, that indeed they are of little value!

It has been given up by metaphysicians, I believe, that one truth does not falsify another. Well, if the present theories are correct, so must be the the practice. Why then these opposite theories, and more different practices? Even in cases reported by the same physician, I never knew two treated alike. This is to me, an evident proof of the mistrust and shaken confidence that the practitioner has in himself. Whence originates that vacillation of opinions and practice but in the want of knowledge of vitality? Again; did the physician know his business theoretically, know what he is treating—know the cause of health and life, would he not also know the cause of the contrary effects.

I think the fallacy of the old adopted opinions and false theories of the faculty can be well demonstrated by their practices on the cholera. Geniuses of the highest capacities, the most profound philosophers, the most learned; animated by all that can prompt one to act, have exhausted themselves in vain! The cholera is not better known now than it was fifteen years ago!—Shall any one ask, where is that veil which is dropped between the medical faculty and the true pathology of the cholera? **Here it is. THE IGNORANCE OF VITALITY!** However learned and ingenious, have the researches of anatomists, chemists and physiologists been, they have not discovered the laws of vitality.

To Dr. *Anthony Hunn*, of Kentucky is due the immortal honor of that discovery. Prejudice and selfishness has prevented the faculty from accepting his principles for their guide in medicine, but it never can prevent the system from taking root. I am aware sir, that my efforts will be as unsuccessful, in calling the attention of the medical faculty to the all-important subject of vitality, as those of the author have been, for, the "disciple is less than the master." Dr. Hunn has failed, at least for a time, to call the attention of the scientific to his valuable discoveries—I dare not expect better success.

Those who are determined to stick to their adopted opinions and prejudices and never to alter their minds—who shut their eyes to evidence, and ears to testimony, and who follow the old beaten track; heedless of every thing else, I write not for: I write for the honest inquirer, who inquires with the candid intention to find out truth, and to act up to it: I write for those who would rather save their lives, than to expose or sacrifice them to the manes of fashion and prejudice.

I pretend not to improve upon what is already known; my aim is to give some explanations of the cause of the cholera, as I am able to gather out of the symptoms reported by many writers, in which they all concur. To do this, I must give a brief view of the laws of vitality, as far as regards the functions of the human machine. Before I can explain *sickness*, I must first show what *health* is. I shall as much as possible confine myself to the subject before me.

In the following numbers, I shall be obliged to make use of words which are not generally known; and not to be found in our common dictionaries.—These words were necessary to help the discoverer of the laws of vitality, to explain his system with more accuracy. To express our ideas in new words is, indeed, to speak an unknown tongue; but I hope my reader will keep in mind the meaning of these words till he shall have heard me through. In order to be better understood, and to avoid confusion of thought, I will call the ponderable matter *substances* and the im-



ponderables, *essences*. The essences are what give the "properties," "power," etc. ect. to substances; the necessity of this distinction will be apparent when we come to explain the laws of vitality.

**Logos.** By this word I shall always mean, the cause of consciousness, of reason, of cogitation and of remembrance.

**SENSIVE.** This essence is the cause of life, "it is essentially *DESIRE* which it communicates to all its combinations." It is this essence which gives sensations, feelings and life to *substances*.

**CONTRACTIVE.** This essence "is the cause of *contraction* to its own centre, as caloric is the cause of expansion *from* its own centre."

Our present object will not permit us to give in detail, the proofs of these different essences; if my reader is desirous of being better acquainted with the laws of vitality, I would refer him to the essays of Hunn on the subject. They are to be found in the "Medical Friend," edited by the author, 1830.

In my next number I shall examine the different functions these essences perform in the human system.

D. F. N.

## NO. 2.

I take for granted, that substances are not possessed of any "property," unless it has been imparted to them. My aim is to explain what gives the different *properties to the substances* of the human frame.

First, I shall speak of that which gives the consciousness of being. **Logos**, by its voluntary junction to *sensitive* forms the identity in all that has consciousness of being. By intransitive impossibility, thought can only combine with the purer sensitive. This is enclosed in the brain of all living creatures, which we call living animals. By a wise purpose, the identity of man is so constituted as to render him a moral agent. To explain this would be foreign to our subject, and therefore I shall only glance over it without further proof or explanations.

The sensitive of the identity is the medium which *links* the logos to *substances*, by means of the *organic* life.

Anatomists know how wonderfully every part of the body is arranged; this is for the purpose of approximating the substances for the combination of certain essences, which give them such or such "properties." The substances which compose the different parts of the body are taken out of the same mass. Those which form the brain may be used again to form part of a bone, a muscle, an artery, a vein, hair, nails, &c. &c. The substances of the brain can no more cogitate by themselves than that of my foot, unless the "property" of *thought* is imparted to them! The substances of any muscle cannot of themselves *contract*, unless the power of *contraction* is imparted to them. Neither could the substances of my foot be made to *think*, until they should be arranged as that of the brain, and in fact **BE BRAIN!** The necessity of the composition of substances is then, so far, necessary, in order to approximate them for the reception and combination of *essences*, so as to make certain beings fit for the purpose designed.

A superficial glance over this deep philosophy, has led some to suppose that indeed it was the *juxtaposition* of the substances which gave the various properties of different bodies. This doctrine, however shallow, has many votaries and firm believers, though the single and well known effects of load stone upon iron or steel would be sufficient to upset the whole doctrine.

Whether there are various *bases* of substances, as is believed by some chemists of the age, or whether there is but one base, out of which all the different combinations are but a peculiar arrangement of the atoms, is here a matter of small importance. Suffice it to say, that what is not *in* cannot come *out*; therefore unless life be imparted to substances, why they must always *be dead*. "God breathed life into the nostrils of Adam," which before, he had not, though all the substances were there ready! The brain is no more than the recipient of the **IDENTITY** and the organ, where the organic sensitive is discerned, for the purpose of animating the body. This wonderful machine, is so made, that when the balance of the building is in proper function, it discerns the organic life out of the blood and

sends it to every part of the body, by means of the conductors, the nerves, and it takes *logos* to the substances; the former gives feeling to the different parts and the latter the consciousness of feeling. We shall examine more particularly what other functions the sensitive performs in the animal machine while we shall overlook its influence over the morals and passions of man, and the creation of new and sordid desires, which so often lead the "microcosmas man" to perdition, even against the dictate of his own better judgment.

Sensitive acquires new desires, whenever it is combined with new substances and, indeed this it does to an astonishing degree; it is not uncommon to see children partake of the bodily imperfections of their parents, and even animals also. Diseases may become hereditary. These are well known facts, but not explained: it would lead us out of our subject to go into such details.

The next essence of which we shall now speak is that of CONTRACTIVE. I cannot give it in my own words as well as the founder of the system has explained it. I will here make extracts from him. Of the other essences, chemistry speaks though they are not defined in the same manner, nor called by the same general name; yet the natural conclusion, from the deductions of known facts, must bring to the same point.

The Contractive, in animalization is that 'pabulum vitæ,' without which we cannot live one minute; which we inhale, and which is by the lungs secreted from its combination with oxygen gas, and incorporated with the blood, to which it gives its color and known contractility, forms the globuli of the cruor, and creates the animal molecules, from the blood it is again secreted by the *proper ganglions* of the great sympathetic nerves, which have no medulary substance, and are very strikingly distinguished by *Bichat* from the vertebral ganglions. Thus both systems of ganglionic nerves, united with the great sympathetic and its plexuses, furnish the heart and the vital organs, with their respective products, viz: sensitive from the vertebral, and contractive from the ætheric ganglions, to pour them into the heart after each systole;

by this means restoring to it what was expended by the systole, the two principal essences constituting vitality. The arteries and all the organs, act like the heart, and by the same means with the heart, by systole and diastole. The contractive is the great antiseptic in animals and vegetables, excluding all decomposing causes from entering the frame. COLD is the positive effect of this essence, and not merely the absence of heat. In the animal body it is the *contractility* of the *fibrine*, the "vis insita" of Haller. The contraction of the fibre is not caused by a "nervous influence," for muscles preserved for eight years and longer in a saltpetre cave, will contract as lively as in a heart of an animal just killed; nor is it caused by the application of any extraneous substance, for the substances, after the application of which, the muscle does contract, are all *expanders*. Fire, mineral acids, etc. and which, after the contraction has taken place, do actually and speedily dissolve it. Nor does it contract from the "sensitive," being *infused* into it by the will, for the motory nerve of a muscle being cut close to it, the muscle will contract by "irritating" the nerve next the muscle, as lively as before its isolation from the brain; besides, that the muscle was undoubtedly filled with sensitive before the mind *willed*, and still the muscle was *at rest*. Lastly, if a motory nerve is "irritated" between the muscle and the brain, the pain is *felt* and the muscle *contracts* at the same time. In the *pain* the action of the sensitive must be *retrogressive* towards the centre of perception. Can it possibly be at the *same time progressive* by the *will* to the muscle? Can the *sensitive* in the muscle contract the fibre, when the medulla of the brain, of the spine and the nerves themselves, the very seat of sensitive, never contracts, even from the application of fire and mineral acids? \* *Self contraction* must belong to the fibre. Now chemistry cannot discover the least difference in the substances of mucus, gelatine, albumen and *fibrine*; but *fibrine* alone self contracts. What chan-

\*Is it the abundance of life which makes the muscles of a dead cholera corps contract, and jerk?

ges, then, the gelatine into the fibrine? Not the gelatine itself! yet it must be something that does it, something not discoverable by chemistry, that gives the fibrine form and self contraction to the gelatine. To give form it must combine with it, and to combine with it, it must itself be an essence. This essence of course, must be *self contraction* which it imparts to its combinations. This self acting essence, must be *always* acting unless combined with another essence, which will prevent its action. What other essence is there, or can be in the fibres could do that but the *sensitive* with which the fibre is already impregnated, saturated? If so, the abstraction of any quantity of sensitive, must be followed by muscular self contraction, and the influx of the sensitive must ever increase the indolence of the fibrine, and not its *influx*, cause organic self-contraction.

This theory brought to the test of experience, how will it look? In moribund and in death the heart and large arteries are contracted upon themselves. If the nervous "what you call it," is, as I have never known any rational being to doubt it, secreted by the organ of the brain, can that contraction in death be from an excess of a something that is to be produced by an organ that is quite unable to produce it? "Come let us reason together," says St. Paul, and "let us look at it fairly" says Duane. Can this possibly be from excess of nervous influx of sensitive? It must be from the *want* of it. What is that plaything of Cullens, *Spasm*? An extraordinary, involuntary, excessive contraction of the muscular fibre. If excessive nervous influx causes it, why not *bleed*? Why not bleed in *Tetanus*, when all the muscles are contracted to horn? If we bleed, the patient dies—what cures it, and all spasms? Powerful "stimuli;" such means as *increase* cerebral organic action, nervous influx. A man has been "drinking," goes to bed drunk, when "the brandy dies in him," awakens with "cramp" in his legs—indirect debility, want of nervous influx, is apparent. Suppose you bleed here? I have seen sudden deaths on the point of the quack's lancet. How does the tipler cure it? He takes a hearty sip of brandy, and the cramp is

gone. Who can doubt that the nervous influx was increased by the stimulus? Can we drive out the devil by Belzebub?

For further development of animal self-action, I refer the reader to the essays above alluded to; as well as for the proof of the *essence of contractive*.

D. F. N.

### NO. 3.

Now we have seen what causes animal self-action—we have seen what causes the contraction of the muscles, and what causes relaxation, viz: life (organic sensitive) in combination with caloric. Health then, is a full supply of all the essences which cause the natural actions of the whole frame; animal self-action by *systole and diastole* is caused by the contractive, sensitive and caloric, and voluntary actions by the logos acting upon the sensitive. I have already referred the reader to the work where he may see in detail, the manner in which these different functions are performed.

When by one cause or other, any one of these essences become corrupted, that is, when a foreign substance is introduced into the system, by means of the adventitious sensitive, the natural actions become impaired. These substances are of various kinds and have various effects; their combination with life corrupts it, and renders it unfit to perform its functions, or they abstract it from the system. When the corrupting matter has any affinity for certain organs or parts of the body, it is carried by the circulatory system and there generates, and causes a new crop of itself to be re-produced, as when the seed is sown in a field, a new crop of the same species is brought forth. This vitiated sensitive is called miasma, malaria, or poison. Thus, the sensitive vitiated by the virus of the small pox has an affinity for the surface of the body, there after a short struggle of nature, the miasma takes root and a new crop of the virus is generated, precisely like the seed.

Now in the case of the cholera, there surely exists a substance in the air which has the power of abstracting life, and it seems to have an affinity for the intestinal viscera.

Whether this substance is so coarse as to attach itself to other bodies, as is the case with contagious miasmata, or whether it is so fine as to swim in the air, and generate as it goes along, I will not pretend to prove; though facts would seem to bring to this conclusion; and almost all those who have treated this disease and been amongst it for years, assert its non contagion and say that it is difficult to characterise its propagation. I apprehend no more danger to nurse the sick than breathe the infected atmosphere at the distance of miles from any towns. When a sufficient quantity of the miasma has been inhaled, and the system is thoroughly impregnated with it, it abstracts the sensitive from the organs and retreats towards the internal viscera, the stomach and bowels in particular; then gradual contraction begins at the extremities, there being no sensitive nor caloric to neutralize its stronger grasp, the circulation is stopped; the bowels are excited to an unnatural action by the vast quantity of foreign substances thrown in them as well as by an increased quantity of vitiated sensitive, which causes that first uneasiness, and subsequent pain in those regions, the blood seems to be decomposed and the serum part to be thrown into the stomach and bowels, in form of gruel, that is; the contractive is master in all, and the efforts of nature force a part of the contracting essence, with other substances to be thus discharged. The sensitive goes along and is soon exhausted, and universal contraction takes place—"the collapse stage of the disease." This frightful malady has baffled all the practising physicians; its effects are contrary to any of their groundless theories! The learned *Broussai* with his "traitement physiologique" is not more successful than the disciples of *Brown*. Indeed it is generally believed that the French are not so successful as the English in curing the cholera.

Physicians have divided the disease generally into two stages, viz: that of "aggression" or "excitement" and that of "collapse," and for each of these, they have a peculiar treatment which are of opposite natures; the treatment of the state of excitement being con-

trary to the collapse and vice versa. It is always easy to make distinction of symptoms upon paper, but it is not so easy to distinguish them on the "sick bed."

Let us now see what they say the cholera feels and looks like, and we shall see whether the symptoms, even reported by them, will warrant such distinction of treatment?

Diarrhea generally precedes the attacks of cholera, but sometimes the warning is very short. The first symptoms of the first stage are "lassitudes, uneasiness in the regions of the stomach, evacuations from the bowels, not attended with much griping, the countenance sharp and dark, some head-ache, cramp of the fingers and toes, and almost always slight giddiness and ringing of the ears, slight nervous tremors, cool skin &c. *Stage approaching the "collapse."*—Cramp grows stronger, pain in the region of the stomach, restlessness, much thirst, countenance anxious, features sharper, evacuation becomes like barley gruel, fits of vomiting, excessive coldness of the extremities begins, and even partial coldness of the trunk—the cramp occupying successively the soles of the feet, calves of the legs, the thighs, and in less degree the superior extremities.

*Second stage—the collapse.*—The muscles are perfectly designated under the skin, eyes excavated, narrow, dry and lean, after some hours the eye is reduced to a quarter, and sometimes half of its size, and seems drawn into the cranium by a thread, and surrounded with a livid circle; face shrunk, cold and livid, particularly the lips; nose cold and pinched up; tongue cold, moist and little furred with white; air respired from the lungs perfectly cold; voice, a whisper; extremities cold, shrunk, livid or marbled; cold and lividity invades the trunk and particularly the sides of the chest; hands shrivelled and wrinkled like those of a washer woman's; no radial pulsation or extremely feeble; thirst torturing; urine no longer secreted; terrible purging and frequent vomiting; great contraction of the abdominal muscles; spasms" &c.

What are the first symptoms, but a lack of sensitive and Caloric? Is it not

self-contraction which is already taking place! Some physicians declare, by way of intuition, that the disease "*is not in the muscles.*" This I think I have proved, and the system of vitality explains it, we shall examine this more particularly in the sequel. I would here only draw the analogy of the two stages of the cholera. Now the "collapse" stage, what is it but a continuation and reinforcement of the first? Are there any new symptoms shown? any new causes developed? No! only the first are stronger! The lassitude becomes stiffness,\* there being no sensitive nor caloric to *relax* the irresistible contractive, the "nervous tremors" are changed into spasms, every muscle so contracted as to be perfectly designated under the skin, the skin itself is "corrugated!" the partial coolness becomes "icy cold," the cramp growing so strong as to draw "horrid cries from the sufferer;" the pulse which was *weak* now disappears; vomiting and purging more frequent, and last DEATH! After death what is shown? "Cadaverous stiffness very great" "indescribable jactitation for hours after the dissolution, and the *temperature of the body rises.*"

These phenomena, no one has pretended to even *guess* at the cause, as I have yet seen. The system of vitality explains them in two words, and they prove the system to be true, and the explanation correct. The sensitive, as we have said, is abstracted by the poisonous substances out of the organs of the body, this substance has an affinity for the intestinal viscera, where it draws the corrupted sensitive. The caloric cannot, for a moment, stand the pressure of the contractive, (see essays on vitality by A. Hunn,) and having a superior affinity for the sensitive is imprisoned with it in the interior by the plastic contractive, against which they proved too weak. When the sensitive has lost all affinities for these organs it takes its slow evaporation with the ca-

\*It cannot be *weakness* for the patient sometimes shows great muscular strength a few minutes before he expires, and the muscles always exert their *essential* powers after death by firmly contracting.

lorio, and as they come in contact with the contracted fibre, they relax it, but the victorious enemy forces them out with rapidity; and hence Jactitation, and rise of temperature after death!

What has been called "excitement or aggression" is only a feeble effort of the retreating sensitive, to remain in the organs it unimated, for which it has an affinity, the functions of which are, as we have seen, to relax the contractive and cause animal self-action, viz: systole and diastole; indeed there is a question among physicians, says Dr. Kirk, whether there is a state of excitement previous to the attack, or no. I assert, and I think it can easily be proved, that there is no state of inflammation in the cholera or previous to it. We shall examine this in the next number. Nothing but erroneous deductions, produced by the ignorance of vitality, could have lead the physicians to such dangerous suppositions and wrong practice.

D. F. N.

#### NO. 4.

Having thus far theorised upon the disease, I will conclude by examining the case of congestion and inflammation said to exist in the Cholera. I will make an extract from Hunn's "new theory & practice in fever," which will show theoretically that the congestion is but an effect of the stronger grasp of the *contractive*.

"FEVER is a morbid action of the *whole* animal frame, with a peculiar sensation which is indescribable. The morbid action is either produced by accidental irregularities in the animal functions, without a peculiar miasma, (fever poison) or it is the effect of certain substances floating in the air, or spontaneously generated in the system. Of these fever poisons, we know two, by their peculiar effects on the human frame: The *marsh* fever poison and the *animal* fever poison.

"I shall begin with the fever resulting from *marsh* poison. This fever cause effects, and at least in the onset, entirely the *vertebral ganglions*, as every symptom testifies. A person in health is at once conscious of a crawling down both sides of the backbone exact-



ly, in the directions of these ganglions. This crawling gradually increases, to a cold shiver, then a chill, then a shake. The vertebral ganglions are torpified, paralyzed, and the parts to which they should send their sensitive, from the want of it, contract, or are convulsed. Thus the heart and large arteries exert their essential power of contraction, the capacity of the heart and arteries is lessened, the blood propelled into the veins, and there accumulates where there is the freest space to receive it, in the large veins, where it stagnates because of the tonic contraction of the heart, while the external parts are cold and benumbed.\* This simple fact, so plainly deducible from the principles of vitality, has been tortured into congestion, and a peculiar fever, the congestive fever, created of it; the blood is said to be "called," invited to the heart, expressions which cannot convey any rational ideas. The tonic contraction of the heart and arteries, from the abstraction, explains all those phenomena. The torpor of the paralysis of the vertebral ganglions, would in most cases, as it does in some cause a perfect stoppage of circulation, and death, were it not for two favorable circumstances, which have not been before observed. The eight pair of nerves send branches to the heart which have no ganglions; and which of course furnish the heart with some sensitive, during the inaction of the vertebral ganglions, and of course keep the heart from fully contracting, as it does in the dying and the dead. Secondly, during the general contraction of the chill, the lungs also are rendered measurably incapable of discerning the contractive,—and thus the contraction of the heart is also weakened. The accumulation of the blood in the larger veins is not capable to force open the apertures of the

\* Will not this explain also the cholera? the congestion, the pain and uneasiness about those regions where the sensitive is drawn? Physicians agree that the cholera miasma torpifies the ganglionic system. Broussay observes that those who are Doctors say they feel all their blood accumulate in their bellies—he says that such is their expressions.

contracted heart, for this would be done with greater certainty in the dying and the dead, where this accumulation is greatest; and it cannot be the cause of the subsequent reaction, as Dr. Cooke and others have assumed. Nothing but a restored, free influx of sensitive into the heart, to neutralise its contractive, can make the heart yield to the entrance of the venal blood, and restore the circulation to its former perfection. The torpor of the vertebral ganglions must be overcome. What can do that but an increased influx of sensitive from the brain? And what are the means to remove the chill? Such as increase the energy of the organ of the brain, by which as we have seen, the sensitive is discerned and created. Now as the brain is not affected, and consequently much sensitive is accumulated, the torpor of the vertebral ganglions is at last overcome, a new and greater influx of sensitive is caused; the heart again expands, receives the venous blood, and the circulation which of course for a while must be more rapid than in health, having thrown off the sweat, finally settles into a healthy systole and diastole (alternate contraction and opening of the heart and arteries.) The patient feels well, and pursues his ordinary business. If he still feels sick after the paroxysm, it betokens an admixture of animal fever poison."

But this is not the case with the cholera; there is no reaction or it is very weak. The miasma has the power of abstracting the sensitive, wherever it is, and to vitiate it so that the brain is not capable of discerning the necessary quantity; and therefore no reaction, no accumulation is produced: by this means the whole frame is deprived of it and leaves contractive to exert its powers unchecked, in the system.

I would now conclude from the above facts that the division of that malady into two, three, or twenty stages, is not warranted by the symptoms, and nothing but the ignorance of the true pathology of the cholera, could have lead to such groundless distinctions.—The cholera is but one disease, its various effects proceed from one general cause, and all the symptoms are but the effects of this cause—to study the different symptoms and to try to find

a peculiar remedy for that, and not enquire into the general cause, reminds me of the fable of the dog who let go the piece of meat he held, to seize the shadow!

A few remarks upon the present mode of treatment, may not be amiss here.—There is no general theory, however, but there is a general use of certain medicines and means, resorted to by the physicians, to produce certain effects their fancy directs; & what is more astonishing is, that some medicines, like faithful servants, do all they are bid to, and act just as the administerer wishes; so the same drug may be used by different hands to produce quite contrary effects! And in the hand of the "unskillful," in this magic they are dangerous and frequently produce the most frightful effects and even death!

The most servile of these is CALOMEL! How great its virtues, and astonishingly different; if its worth is equal to its use, no language can be found to praise it half!—But, how our admiration is changed when we turn the true side of the picture! It would lead me out of my subject; were I to point out the bad effects of Calomel; let my readers read Hamilton, Beach, Hunn, &c. &c. and even the works of the admirers of calomel themselves!—Read the "Sick-bed!" Could the ghosts of all those who fall an untimely grave re-appear, like that of the king of Denmark, and tell the cause of their decease, how many would accuse the giant CALOMEL!!—Yea see the number of disfigured faces, crippled limbs, toothless mouths, broken constitutions, diseased livers, incurable ulcers; now existing relicks of calomel, and the picture will be sad enough!

Dr. O. Binaghi says; "every one ought to know sufficient, by the effects of this medicine to see that it should not be used in cases of cholera: this disease requiring a prompt and energetic treatment by medicines adapted to sustain and to give direction to the operations of nature: if administered, as some say to re-excite the suppressed secretions, this is only aiming at the symptomatic cure, and losing sight of the principal disease."

I will not deny that calomel may relieve and cure a person of the cholera,

and I doubt not it has cured many: cannot say cured in every sense of the word, but relieved of the cholera, and left to drag a miserable existence the remainder of their days!! Yet this terrible drug seems the only cure offered for the cholera—a remedy worse than the disease.

But if we ask why this drug is used to cure the cholera, in preference of another, they will be constrained to say they don't know! Dr. Kirk observes: "I am not sure that in general calomel is prescribed upon any principles, but rather empirically, and without very definite conclusions."—Those who wanted rules to use this drug, made them, and there are many and contradictory ones, which, when viewed collectively, emphatically speak QUACKERY!

Bleeding is also resorted to in curing the cholera. This is "according to the art recommended to subdue the inflammation." But what sort of inflammation is there in the cholera!—The inflammation here thought to exist, is only imaginary and not real.—I cannot properly understand, what they call inflammation; however, by that word, is generally meant too high excitement of the arterial action, but here there is none. The congestion of blood we have already explained. Those few marks of gangre which have been remarked in the dead cholera corps. were not owing to the disease, but to the remedy—I have known and seen such effects resulting from the too free use of friend calomel; they are not unfrequent, but we cannot cite examples here. It is astonishing how the medical faculty could have mistaken the cause of this and make out of it, a separate disease. How can it be inflammation when there is no arterial action' but a constant gradual sinking from the commencement of the disease, to the last.

Bleeding then, can only do HARM in any stage of the disease and even the supporter of the doctrine of venesection acknowledge that it is dangerous, and some assert that it is always wrong!—"As it respects bleeding, says Dr. Benaghi all the physicians who treated this disease at Warsaw, have been convinced of the dangerous consequences

of it."—"Dr. Searle himself, who observed the cholera in India, and treated it in Warsaw, has always had unsatisfactory results from bleeding." Dr. Kirk asks: "when was it proposed till the present day, to relieve a condition of the extremest depression; and no arterial excitement, by the abstraction of the principal vital fluid?" This same physician has proved by observation that bleeding brings on the collapse, who can doubt it!—So then venesection and the use of calomel, which is an indirect way to bleed, must be both harmful and dangerous remedies for the cholera. D. F. N.

### NO. 5.

I have long trespassed upon the patience of my readers, by theorising. I will now conclude by pointing out the means whereby one may procure a remedy for the cholera that will be both safe and efficacious.—Here I am aware I will "stimulate" many a prejudice, excite jeers from the envious, and probably many may throw this sheet aside as useless, because I shall make use of a name against whom their prejudices are highly excited. I have not undertaken to court prejudices in writing these numbers, nor have I expected general applause. Nothing but a thorough conviction of the truth of what I have said, could have made me come out of the obscurity I am in; I fear no critic, nor can ridicule hurt me. Criticism, I say, I fear not, because I have nothing to gain from the belief of false principles: And should be thankful to any one who would point out my errors in these remarks. Jeers and ridicule I despise; let any thing come before us, we as rational creatures, should treat it with candor.

Let us now sum the substance of the first numbers. We have seen what constitutes vitality; in a very brief manner we have examined the manner of action of the animal machine; next we have examined the disease and its manner of action upon the system.—Now the means of cure are very deducible from the theory we have advanced; first to give such medicines as will raise the sensitive and cause the ganglions to again act, and also the brain, and to clear the system of all the substances

which have become vitiated by the effects of the poison; second to help the sensitive in relaxing the contracted fibres, by external application of heat, as well as to prevent the external cold from lending a hand to the contractive, and to restore the healthy systole & diastole. Any medicines or means which tend either to impair or destroy the least organ of the body, must be injurious. Nature must alone make the choice of the noxious substances to be discharged; and if you help her, she will do it: or if she is not able to do it, nothing that is capable of impairing her natural functions can do any good! I will now refer the reader to a work wherein he will find medicines both safe and efficacious for this purpose, as well as the manner of using them. It is in Dr. Samuel Thompson's "new guide to health." In this little work the reader may find all the means necessary to cure the cholera, or any other disease, plainly developed, and in so plain a style that no one can avoid understanding it. His remedies are the only true and safe ones which I know, or that have been used and which I dare in conscience recommend to my readers.

The system of medicine discovered by Thomson is not less useful than the system of vitality; the former points out the means and manner of cure while the latter explains the disease. Time will not permit me to draw the analogy of the two. But it can be shown that Huxley's system of vitality is but an explanation of Thomson's system of medicine; and the practice will prove both to be true! I shall conclude by making a few remarks on Thomson's system and medicines.

Thomson, when driven to the painful alternative to witness the death of his children, or to seek remedies to cure them was surprised at his success! He soon was roused from the apathy under which an ordinary mind generally lies. He could not help but see with his eyes. The happy junction of his identity was evidently made for something more than a mere "clod hopper:" his genius could not remain dormant!—Circumstances forced him to put his powerful mind in action, the result of which will be an everlasting benefit to those who choose to profit by it. He has

found out remedies, which, any one alone might be sufficient to immortalise his name: But he was soon convinced that remedies were not "the only thing needful"—he sought the rationale of his remedies; he felt the necessity of forming a *system*, whereby they might be practically administered by others as well as by himself. This, he has done, and explained it in such a manner, that the most superficial mind can see into it in two words!—"Heat is life, and cold is death," this is the basis upon which his system is built. I know that many object to this mode of reasoning; but I have no time to enter here into a detailed exposition of this system. Until the laws of vitality are known, no good objection can be brought against it, and they only explain the parts which seem lacking; but do not contradict it.

I will now take a brief view of the effects, which the principal medicines of Thomson have upon the system.—They are classed under 6 numbers.

No. 1—Is the only medicine known in the world possessed with powers like it, viz; to cause a natural action of the brain and produce a new and abundant influx of sensitive, and expell the noxious substances which corrupt the organic life, without leaving this organ any ways impaired as the narcotics do; but on the contrary it always causes a natural action if it acts at all. It acts only where there is life; as it has not the least power of doing any injury to the organs, nor to abstract life from them. It can only help nature to perform its natural functions.—I have no time to give a detail of the other effects produced by this invaluable herb upon the human body.

No. 2—This is the generator of heat in the system, its effects are to rouse the sensitive in the organs, and is properly speaking a stimulus; it gives energy to all the other medicines.

No. 3—Possesses the power of gathering from the system such noxious substances as are made by the morbid action, and to give the organs the power of self-contraction, (antiseptic) by removing the corrupted substance from them and leaving them in better order to perform their original functions with increased vigor.

No. 4—Possesses the power of restoring the debilitated organs, it causes a natural secretion of the fluids, as well as to keep the system in its proper functions.

No. 5—Restores the digestive organs. I would place this as a supplement to no. 4.

No. 6—This is the well known *paracetamol*, which is known by most every body, where 'steam doctors' have passed, which has been most universally worshiped by those who have used it, and ridiculed and jeered by the envious or prejudiced. This is so composed of the former numbers as to possess all the qualities of no. 2. 3. and 4.—Its peculiar composition, has made it better adapted for the use of every body. It has powerful effects upon the body which is yet animated, but perfectly harmless as to the destruction of even the most delicate organ. On the contrary it can only produce healthy actions; since it destroys or impairs none. It is known to be the greatest antiseptic yet used.

To this might be added another number. It is that which pacifies the nerves, and might be called the happy fier or comforter; it is composed of such vegetables as will always relieve those distressing nervous affections which so much harass the patient. Thomson has made three preparations of the no. 1 the 3d of which is so composed as have the properties of five numbers viz; 1. 2. 3. 6. and 7.—There are many other articles mentioned in this little work, which possess various properties of minor importance, but it would lead us too far to mention them. I would advise those who are desirous of securing themselves from the danger of losing their life, or health, to possess themselves with a patent from the discoverer, and to take the trouble to make themselves acquainted with this new and valuable plan of curing diseases.

Now I ask, is there any one who has read these numbers through, who would say that, having a knowledge of Thomson's system of medicine, he could not select such medicines as would cure the cholera?—See now how simple the theory and more simple the practice! The cholera is caused by a substance which abstracts the sensitive

from the body—it retreats inward, with the fluids which are thrown into the stomach and discharged by vomiting and purging. Self-contraction takes place, which is accelerated by the surrounding atmosphere.

Now no. 2. will rouse the sensitive and cause it to return to the organ it is driven from; and will relax the contracting fibres at the same time; apply the outward heat which will also help it, and prevent the already too strong contracting essence from receiving a re-enforcement from the air; 2ndly give the no 3 to help the organs in freeing themselves from the noxious substances; and 3dly give no 1 to cause the brain to secure a sufficient quantity of the essence of life to animate the body and to throw off the morbid matter from the system, in order that the animal action may be again performed (the natural systole and diastole,) and give no 4 to keep the system in its proper function; and where is the cholera?

Does it not look ridiculous that, instead of helping nature to perform her function in the system, when it is evidently too weak to do it; we should administer such drugs as tend not only to rob the organs of their "living essence," but really destroy the substantial parts?

But this number is already too long; I must conclude.

Will any one ask; has the above been tried in practice? I answer, it has.—And many have received benefits from it, which can be testified by thousands. Will you ask me how, came it that the press did not notice it? I answer that some have noticed it, and that prejudices have prevented the circulation of facts!—Such is the human mind, there is nothing astonishing in that. "Men love darkness better than light because their deeds are evil." It is not only now that the people would rather be deceived, according to their prejudices, than to learn the truth, and reform their conduct. They did so in past ages! and the venerable reformers, have sealed their labors with their blood! Even CHRIST was nailed to the cross! Socrates was doomed to swallow the cup of hemlock!—Read the histories of the world, and see what mankind has been! Think you that we are better now than

they were then? O no! And in the proof of this, let any one touch but once, the popular prejudices; and you are cast off from all society, despised, ridiculed, jeered, sneered and calumniated! True the light of science, and general education have in some respects, ameliorated the generality of the world. And the happy government under which we live, has secured us from the envy of those who wish to persecute. But even in America, in "the land of the free, and the home of the brave," Thomson has been imprisoned and chained in a filthy dungeon, and tried for his life; because he wished to put a discovery into the hands of the people, for their own benefit! Will you now ask me; why you have not seen the press notice the effects of his medicines in the cure of the cholera? Study but a moment, the prejudices of the people.—Study your own prejudices; and the question will be answered. I cannot go any further, I am afraid I have tired my reader's patience already. D. F. N.

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## THE RECORDER.

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### COLUMBUS,

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SATURDAY, FEB. 9, 1832.

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Dr. Thomson left this place on the 8th inst., and took stage for Boston.

### REFORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT.

A Canadian Regular Doctor has recently recommended "*laughing*" as a specific remedy for "*dyspepsia*." The cure is performed by a continual use of it for several months. A mere smile or simpering laugh, it is apprehended will not avail much; it is only a hearty horse-laugh, in heavy and habitual doses, faithfully persisted in, that holds out to the unfortunate dispeptic encouraging prospects of relief. We have as much confidence in this prescription as in Dr. PERKINS' tracteration, or HALSTEAD'S *kneading of the stomach and bowels*, or Dr. HOWARD'S sweet pota-



toes and wheat bran. In reading this minute detail of incidents connected with the bran and potatoes, the most melancholy dyspeptic might be induced to corrugate his muscles and laugh a little. Laughing is a very merry medicine, and as this is an age intent on improvement and reformation, if any benefits can result from this new discovery, we would not absolutely proscribe the trial, if used with due discretion.—There is nothing anti-Thomsonian in mild, modest, rational laughter.

The dyspeptic will find a cheap medicine of the ORDER of LAUGHABLES, in consulting the works of some of our medical reformers.

### SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

The general agents of Doct. Samuel Thomson at Columbus Ohio, would respectfully suggest to all their sub-agents in the United States, that in making sale of any right or rights, as secured to Dr. Thomson by patent, it will be uniformly and invariably required, that they pay strict attention to the following special instructions, in relation to the person or persons who may wish to purchase, and be fully and unequivocally satisfied, as far as can be readily ascertained, that they possess the following qualifications.

1st. That they be persons of good common understanding.

2d. That they have a taste for reading and reflection.

3rd. That they be reputed honest and benevolent in disposition.

4th. That they be persons of strictly temperate habits.

This should ever be a *sine qua non* with the vender of Thomsonian rights. The aversion of Dr. Thomson to all appearance or even the slightest approximation to intemperance, is well known to be fixed and irreconcilable.

A known deviation from this requirement would subject any one to the forfeiture of his confidence and good opinion. The reputation and success of the cause depend much on a rigid inflexible adherence to this rule.

### SALUTARY CAUTION.

Dr. Thomson wishes that in all preparations or compositions, or mixtures, that any practitioner may attempt to form, in the use or administration of his remedies, that they carefully and scrupulously avoid as far as practicable the use of ardent spirits of any kind. Spirits dry the glands of the mouth and throat, increase thirst, and notoriously impede in many instances, the salutary influence or operation of medicine. For instance: a small portion of a watery infusion of *lobelia inflata*, will almost invariably, succeed effectually, as an emetic, where repeated doses of a saturated tincture, even of the seeds, MADE WITH ARDENT SPIRITS, will entirely fail.

This is an important point to be attended to in cases of CRAMPS or rattles in the throats of children, vulgarly called the BOLD HIVES, a term which is probably derived from a colonial use of the word *heaves*, in allusion to a disease in horses called *heaves* or thumps, on account of the laborious difficulty of breathing. In cases of croup in children, if the saturated spiritous tincture of lobelia does not readily produce copious vomiting, to throw off the tough viscid phlegm that occasions a troublesome and dangerous obstruction, immediate recourse should be had to the infusion of the emetic herb in warm water, or to the expressed juice of the green plant when it can be obtained, and every appropriate means used to keep the glands moist, and to facilitate its operation, as prescribed by Doctor Thomson in his New Guide.

### DR. COLE.

On the trial of Francis Burk, before Baltimore city court, on an indictment for manslaughter, by administering to Benjamin M. Hazlip, certain Thomsonian remedies. There

Was a certain character who attended as a witness, who, in the narrative of the trial is called Dr. Cole. We learn on enquiry, that he is quite a conspicuous being, among that nondescript race called REGULAR DOCTORS. It must be confessed that as far as the Baltimore medical faculty were examined in court on said trial, they were remarkably regular—they had an exact order or rule of swearing. There appears a remarkable regularity, uniformity or exactness of rule existing among them. The moral weight and importance in point of credibility are nearly on an average. This Dr. Cole as they call him, was put upon his oath before said Court: He stated, "I never knew Lobelia to be used by any except the advocates of this system," [meaning the Thomsonian system.] "The effect of Lobelia" it is said, "is to act as a purgative." Dr. Cole would do well to wipe off the reproach that now rests upon him and let the community know who told him that lobelia is a purgative: for ourselves we should be glad to receive information on the subject. We know that Thomsonians have never told Dr. Cole, nor any other man, black or white, that lobelia is a purgative medicine. Their testimony is pointedly and uniformly the reverse. What says Dr. Thomson? He is the first of human beings that we are certain ever faithfully tested its medicinal virtues—see NEW GUIDE, p. 49, eighth edition—"As to its operating as a CATHARTIC—~~I~~ I never knew it to have such an effect in all my practice. I certainly ought to know something about it, after using it for more than 40 years, and having administered it in every form and manner that it can be given, and for every form of disease that has come within my knowledge." We really wish with due deference, very modestly to enquire who it was that informed Dr. Cole, of the Cathartic qualities of lobelia? We leave this point for the present—we will touch it again directly. Cole proceeds with his testimony, "*I think it [lobelia] a dangerous article,!!!* yet he says, "I never knew it to be used by any except the advocates of the system." Again, "I have never used it, and have no knowledge of it myself." We feel like

speaking a few words directly to Dr. Cole. We hope this great man will not spit in our faces because we venture to talk plainly to him. Well sir, you say you never knew it to be used by any except the advocates of the Thomsonian system; of course you did not know that Cox, Thatcher, Cutler and others had ever used it. We will let it go for what it is worth: as you have made the statement on oath, we will admit the fact. You say, "I have never used it, and have no knowledge of it myself." Well sir, they who had used it, and they only, could state the facts—they certainly told you it was not primarily a purgative—that it rarely, if ever produced any such effect, unless by the combination and co-operation of other causes, that might occasionally, or rather, accidentally give it a laxative direction. They have with one heart and one tongue testified privately and publicly, at the fire side, in Courts of law, and from the Press, again and again, that it is not a purgative, that it is always perfectly safe and never dangerous in any form of disease whatever. Dr. Thomson remarks—"In consequence of the learned Doctor's forming an erroneous opinion of this herb, *which they had no knowledge of*, they undertook to represent it as a deadly poison—and in order to destroy my practice; they raised a hue and cry about my, killing my patients by administering it to them." "Some of the faculty even made oath that it was poison, and when taken into the stomach, if it did not cause immediate vomiting, it was certain death. It is unnecessary for me now to point out the falsity of this, for the fact is pretty well known, that there is no death in it: but on the contrary, that there is no vegetable that the earth produces, more *harmless* in its effects upon the human system, and none more powerful in removing disease and promoting health.

—

*From the American Lancet.*

The following is an extract of a letter from John Davis, M. D. of Tennessee, to S. L. Mitchell, M. D. of N. York, dated, Caledonia, July 27, 1830. It was published in Vol. 11, page 151 of the American Lancet. We give it to

our readers as we find it. The Thomsonian practice deals very sparingly in purgatives, still it is possible this plant may have some claim to the attention of botanical Physicians.

#### "A FINE MEDICINAL PLANT."

"I take the liberty of sending you a medical plant, including the root, which grows abundantly in the western district of Tennessee. The root is perennial, [that is durable, lasting through the year.] The plant grows on high and low grounds, without preference for either. Its height is from one to three feet. It blossoms in June, July and August. The medicinal virtue resides in the root. It is an excellent cathartic. I know of no vegetable equal to it for discharging bile from the system. It is frequently used here by the people, and among them I have witnessed its effects, though I have not yet prescribed it in my practice. They take a small handful of the roots, and boil them in water to the consistence of thick decoction, or syrup. A table spoonful or two is then to be taken, which generally operates freely. The name by which it is distinguished here, is BLACK ROOT; though this is manifestly improper, as the root, when fresh has a yellow hue. I should have sent a drawing, but I concluded on the whole it would be better to send the article itself. Some stalks have but four leaves about the stem, while others have five. There is but one species of this vegetable here-about."

"Dr. Mitchell," says the Lancet, "in his answer, stated that on examination, he thought it was the *Veronica Virginica*, of Persh."

Extract from an earnest appeal to the public, showing the misery caused by the fashionable mode of practice of the Doctors at the present day; with the fatal effects of giving poisons as medicine, and the advantages of following the course pointed out by nature; using such things only as are the vegetable productions of our own country.—  
By Samuel Thomson.

"A short time since a physician in Boston was called to a child seven years old, who was suddenly attacked with a bad cold; it continued to grow

worse under the operation of the medicine he gave, for several days, when the doctor pronounced it to be dropsy on the brain; the head and stomach were blistered, which brought on stranguary to such a degree that he was obliged to draw off the water with a catheter; it continued in a stupid senseless state for seven days, when death relieved it from its distress.

From the *Boston Medical Intelligence*.

March 28th, 1831.—L. March, a seaman, æt. 40. About eleven months since, a small lump appeared in the center of the under lip. Externally, it had a bluish appearance; increased until it broke. There is now an ulcer, with indurated edges, spreading over about two thirds of the lip. The whole substance of integument, down to the chin, seems hard, inflamed, and circumscribed. A year since, he had a scrofulous ulcer on his right side; it healed and has not since opened. Accompanying the present disease, is an enlargement of the submaxillary glands. As the opening in his side formerly, healed rapidly under calomel and opium, I let him commence taking one pill, night and morning, R. Sub. mur. Hydr. gr. xxiv. Pulv. Opii. gr. vi. divided in pil, xii, April 4th.—His mouth is sore from the calomel. The external ulcer, on the lip, appears healing. Omitted pill 21st.—The disease seemed increased since the ptyalism sinuses passed through it in different directions. He died at the alms-house in a most distressing condition, in February, having lost all the integuments covering the lower jaw, and part of the covering of the throat; the tongue was enormously enlarged, hanging down upon the top of the sternum. The face was much swollen.

#### THE THOMSONIAN RECORDER

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# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"

"And practice be combined with common sense."

Vol. I. COLUMBUS, FEB. 23, 1833. No. 10.

## INTERESTING EXTRACTS.

The subjoined extracts are from the pen of Dr. John Thomson of Albany N. Y. They are contained in his prefatory address prefixed to a work published in 1825, entitled "A vindication of the Thomsonian system of the practice of medicine, on Botanical principles, as originated by Samuel Thomson, and continued by his coadjutors." Let it be noticed that John Thomson of Albany, and Cyrus Thomson of Geddesburg, are the sons of Dr. Samuel Thomson, and both eminently successful practitioners of Botanic medicine.

### TO THE PUBLIC.

#### FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

The testimonials contained in the following pages, are respectfully submitted to you, in proof of the propriety and utility of the Botanical system of practice, as pursued by the subscriber and his coadjutors.

The use of *poisons* as medicines has obtained such an ascendancy in the public mind, that it will be considered the influence of enthusiasm or ignorance that should prompt an individual to *oppose* the practice or *expose* its evil tendency. But, let the consequence be what it may, being deeply impressed with the deleterious effects of such *poisons* on the human system, and conceiving it a bounden duty to express to the public my honest sentiments upon the subject, I am induced to lay the following documents, referring to my system, before the community. They speak a language which can neither be misunderstood nor evaded. They speak of circumstances which have transpired within the recollection of all, and of facts which can be attested by hundreds of witnesses.

It is now [Dec. 10, 1825,] about fourteen months since I first came to the city of Albany to practice Botany. I might have published specimens of my practice long ere this, that the public might have judged of its utility, had it not been for a series of shameful

persecutions which I have had to encounter from my opponants. I have thought it expedient to remain silent, except in one or two instances, when attacks were made on my brother, who practices on the same system:—as he was not hero to answer for himself, I thought it my duty to speak in his behalf. Our remedies are of the same kind, of course one is equally injurious, or beneficial as the other.

When I had been in this city forty days, I had administered relief to many in whose cases the medicines prescribed by regular physicians had entirely failed. This circumstance seems to have had a powerful effect on the physicians: whether it was an alarm for the profits of their practice, or for the public weal, is left for the reader to judge. Be that as it may, so great was the effect, that one of them, (probably by the direction of the rest,) wrote me a letter, warning me to leave the city, or expect a prosecution, which this tool as I afterwards found him to be, said would be otherwise commenced against me. However, I did not see fit to comply with this modest request, and yet have escaped prosecution to this day.

They did not profess to find any fault with my practice, but the reason assigned was, that I had not entered my *DIPLOMA*, in the office of the county Clerk, agreeably to law.

In my reply to this letter, I informed them that my system of practice was secured to my Father by *PATENT*, and I, as his heir, claimed it as heritage property, and as an agent, sought protection under the patent. But judge of my astonishment when this learned man informed me, for the first time I ever heard of it, that whatever privileges might have been given to my Father "could not be entailed on his children." Verily this was the first time that I ever was told that a parent had not the power of giving his property to his children, if he thought proper to do so! Several other pompous things were said by this man of Esculapian

lore with which I shall not trouble my readers by repeating it to them.

It is unnecessary for me to say much in regard to my system of practice, as enough has already been said by physicians of the first talent in the United States.

It is true I have been persecuted since my arrival in this city, together with my brother, who resides in Geddesburgh, with a relentless ardor, which would be more commendable in a better cause, but in the present case I cannot but look upon it as a shameful dereliction from the principles of charity, and disgraceful to humanity.

My brother's practice has been very extensive, and so extraordinarily successful that he has lost but six cases out of *one thousand two hundred and fifty*, as I am informed by a record of his practice, in four years and a half. Five of the unsuccessful cases were such as were given over as incurable by the regular physicians; yet, what think you honest reader, when I inform you that through the envy and malice of the Doctors, he has been indicted at various times for the murder of three of those patients? But as yet they have never dared to bring him to trial.

In Geddesburg there is a man who is styled a **REGULAR PHYSICIAN**, who in twelve months has lost eight patients. It was allowed that my brother had the greatest part of the business of the village in the same time he lost but one patient. Notwithstanding this vast difference of success in favor of my brother's practice, this man of mercury tried very hard to make the people believe that my brother had murdered his *one*, because he did not kill him in as fashionable a style as he had despatched his *eight*.

If my brother had been guilty of treating his patients in the manner described in the *ferocious* Geneva Palladium, he would have been *worse* than a murderer, but mark the cautious introductory remark with which he commences his article. It is to this effect: "The following case was related to us by a respectable physician." This brief remark is a sufficient interpretation to the whole matter. Since the appearance of those publications, I have taken particular pains to investi-

gate these reports, and have invariably found that in those cases, the patients had been given over to die by the regular physicians, before my brother had ever seen them. One case was given over by *thirteen*; another by *four*. Under these circumstances, it is submitted to the public: what dependence can be placed on the candor or veracity of those physicians, or their ranting organs, the editor of the Palladium. We may as soon expect fire to freeze, or ice to burn, as to hear of them speak in favor of Thomson or his system of practice. The unprecedented success which has attended this system, is such, as to have alarmed the doctors, as they find it becoming more popular every day.

To elucidate the charitable and ingenuous manner in which I am opposed by the physicians of this city, it is only necessary to state, that should I be so fortunate as to effect the cure of a patient, who had been given over by them to die, they immediately report that the patient was fast getting well, under their attendance, before I was called upon, and that what medicine I had given was of so simple a nature, that it could neither do good nor harm. But as soon as I lost a patient, I was immediately cried down as a "quack," murderer" &c. It was then said that the death of the patient was in consequence of my making use of such powerful medicines. Such rare consistency and fair dealing will doubtless have its proper weight with a discerning community, and with them I am willing to rest the subject.

Mark the difference between these physicians and those eminent philosophers and philanthropists, the celebrated Doctors Rush and Barton, who were ever zealous and unceasing in their endeavors to promote whatever they conceived to be in the least beneficial to mankind, no matter from what source it may have originated. Under the influence of this principle, both these gentlemen examined my father's system of practice; when they found it had reason and philosophy for its basis, agreed to render him all the assistance in their power for its promulgation. My father then returned to New Hampshire; soon after, both of these patrons of science died, and thus he



was deprived of their extensive influence.

The subjoined address to the citizens of Baltimore, by the Thomsonians of that city, published last fall, was forwarded by them to the late Thomsonian convention, and by the convention committed, to the care of the secretary of general correspondence, to be by him disposed of at discretion. He has thought it worthy of a more extensive circulation and consequently has introduced it into the Thomsonian Recorder. It serves among thousands of other interesting documents to evince the triumphs of the Thomsonian system, in defiance of that formidable opposition it has had to contend with, from vulgar superstition, popular prejudice—and an interested faculty, sustained by legislative partizans and coadjutors. These combined powers have endeavored to lay the strong axe of the law at the root of the botanic Tree. They boldly commenced a war of extermination: But the evil they intended for others has began powerfully to recoil upon the heads of those who have been most busily engaged in the inhuman work of untiring persecution. The people are rousing from a bewildering lethargy—they will assert their unalienable rights, and vindicate the cause of truth and justice, and break through all the ranks of opposition. The chains of our literary oppressors are falling off, we will proclaim liberty to the captives of scientific tyranny, and the opening of the prison doors to them who have long been bound in the shackles of an obsequious credulity. The age of witchcraft, water-wizzards, and astrological fortune-telling, is fast receding. The pulse feeling, blood letting, mercurialising faculty are on the wane. Truth, meek eyed truth, fair daughter of heaven! is breaking out from behind a dark and dismal cloud! We hail her approach and greet her return from a long captivity!

“Rise Truth! arise, stretch thine immortal wing,  
Let all the heights and depths of nature sing!  
Her mighty prowess let the nations own,  
And shout hosanna's round her peerless throne!”

## TO THE CITIZENS OF BALTIMORE.

“The committee appointed at a general meeting of the Thomsonians of the city of Baltimore, on Tuesday evening, 23th, Oct. 1832 to make out and publish a list of the names and residences of all persons who have been subject to the Thomsonian treatment in the disease commonly called Cholera, whether favorable or unfavorable, respectfully present to their fellow-citizens the following report; and in doing so, beg leave to remark that they have, for a number of years, been acquainted with the system of practice, and possessed rights to prepare and use the medicine of Doctor Samuel Thomson; and, since we became informed in the manner of their application, have been very successful in removing the various attacks of disease from ourselves and families, so much so as almost to disarm it entirely of its terrors. We, fellow citizens, like yourselves, heard of the new disease, (that is in this, our happy country,) the devastating Cholera, which now pervades our city; we read and pondered upon its symptoms and effects, and after the most deliberate investigation of the subject, came to the conclusion that our system and practice, if fully and fearlessly persisted in, were best calculated to meet and overcome it in every stage. Impelled by this conviction, several of us sought its victims to the neglect of our ordinary business, and, without any other hope of reward than an approving conscience, and the prospect of being able to convince the public that the Thomsonian system and practice would prove their best friend in every exigency, and that every man in the community, of ordinary capacity and acquirements, might become the physician of himself and family. Our efforts have been crowned with success even beyond our expectations, as our list will fully shew.

In one alley, where about thirteen cases occurred, none were cured but those attended by the Thomsonian practitioners. Finding the labor and expense too great for our means, (each individual being required to give his services, and his medicines in most cases for nothing,) and that by attending patients remote from each other, and in

many instances in such abject poverty as to be destitute of the most common necessities, we were not as useful as we might have been, if our patients had been collected together; we made application to the Mayor and City Council for an Hospital, in which to continue our practice, to be under the supervision of the Board of Health, with this condition, that if the Thomsonian practitioner and his assistants were not more successful than any others under like circumstances, they would receive nothing for their services. The petition was presented by Mr. Stansbury, the member from the Fourth Ward, and a member of this committee; it was referred to the joint Committee on Health, they objected to the plan on the ground of a law of the State which imposed a penalty of fifty dollars on every person who should charge for his services, unless licensed to practice medicine by a college of physicians. To remove if possible, this difficulty, and bring our system fairly before the public, we offered to furnish practitioners for the Hospital without any compensation whatever the public merely paying the current expenses of the house. The Committee, however, in their wisdom saw fit to report unfavorably, and the report was concurred in. We have thus, fellow-citizens, as briefly as possible, (and desiring sincerely to avoid giving any offence to any individual) given you a fair statement of the facts of the case, and the reasons which now compel us to appear before you in this manner. We could state much more on the subject, and we will state it, should circumstances require it.

We will now make a remark or two for the satisfaction of the candid enquirer. The first and most common objection that is made to us, is, that we have no knowledge of the Anatomy of the human body, and therefore cannot be capable of administering medicine successfully. This objection is, we think, sufficiently answered by the fact that Anatomy has only materially advanced one branch of Medicine, namely surgery, (and with this branch we wish to be understood that we never meddle) and notwithstanding the advantages claimed by the Faculty from

this knowledge, the whole Science of Medicine is still involved in the greatest uncertainty and doubt, as any one may know, by reference to their standard authors. And here we are free to confess, how the examination of *dead bodies* enables any man to cure the disease of the *living subject*,!! is entirely beyond our powers or comprehension.

Say, Fellow Citizens, what has it accomplished in the disease which is now ravaging our country? To save time and trouble to those who may wish to inform themselves particularly of the present state of Medical Science, we refer them to an excellent piece in No. 37, of Harper's Family Library, written by Dr. Abercrombie.

In conclusion we would observe that Thomson requires no man to take medicine upon faith. He furnishes every one who buys a right, with a theory of disease, and a system of practice, and directs how and in what manner to prepare and administer his medicines. So confident is he of their success, that he never says, if this or that medicine does not produce the desired effect, try another, and so on until you have found one that does. Oh no! his medicine always produces the same effect, under the same circumstances. As regards their operation in all ordinary cases of disease, we have neither faith nor opinions. We administer them with the same confidence of curing, that we have of satisfying the cravings of nature when we sit down to eat. The composure and good humor which we manifest while attending a patient, has caused us in some instances to be censured for the want of the common feelings of human nature.

The Thomsonian system was patented in January, 1823; since that period it has spread with amazing rapidity throughout the country, and is now practised from Maine to Georgia, and from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. It has even crossed the Atlantic, and is successfully practised in England, and it will continue to spread until the name of Thompson is resounded throughout the world, from the Equator to the poles."

## PRUSIC ACID.

The American Lancet, for July 1830 Vol. 11 No. 1 page 12th, contains the following remarks, under the head prusic acid: "This is a medicine which has lately been used with much confidence by some practitioners of our country, and its virtues are yet but partially understood by a majority of the medical profession. Its medicinal powers are beneficial when used with discretion and professional judgement; and on the contrary, *dangerous, and often fatal*, when employed by the careless, inexperienced, and uneducated prescriber. These are sufficient reasons why it ought to be known to the public."

We would just remark that the use of this "dangerous and often fatal" drug, appears in these United States to be nearly, exclusively confined to what has been commonly denominated the **REGULAR FACULTY**. Thomsonians never prescribe it, neither have they credulity enough to believe that this "dangerous and often fatal" medicine, can be disarmed of its deleterious qualities, by the "discretion and professional judgement of a diplomatic physician. We are apprised that it "has lately been used with much confidence by" many of the regular "practitioners of our country." We are confident also that "its virtues are yet but partially understood by a majority of the medical profession." Notwithstanding their acknowledged ignorance, and the danger and fatality of this deadly acid, they go on, trying experiments—venturing to prescribe it according to the "discretion and professional judgement" of the prescribers. "Its dangerous and often fatal" effects have been tested by their own experiments. They have ascertained the facts by administering of it haphazard "at discretion;" truly with "professional judgement," but this affords but a melancholly consolation to the unfortunate victim of their "dangerous and often fatal" discretion. If Thomsonians learned, or unlearned should administer medicine known and acknowledged to be thus "dangerous and fatal" in its operation, would not the regular faculty, lead the way to confer upon them a condign "*fee and reward!!!*"

This is an article that has been much used as a secret poison to put individuals to death.—We could give long and appalling tales on this subject from the most unquestionable authorities.—Thomsonian practitioners would do well in many places, to be on their guard, lest some of this "dangerous and often fatal" drug, should be quietly and unobservedly added to the medicine they may prescribe, like the arsenic that was found in a bottle of alcohol a botanic physician had procured in order to prepare some no. 6. This is no malicious insinuation. The circumstances were too plain and unequivocal to admit a doubt, and at the same time too artfully conducted by "discretion and professional judgement," to subject the offender to legal detection: But the person who would put a botanical doctor on trial for his life for administering Thomsonian medicine and give his own patient a dose of prusic acid, known to be "dangerous and often fatal" in its effects, is certainly prepared to go great lengths in the work of persecution.

## EXCUSES FOR DRUNKENNESS.

"We have long had upon our table," say the editors of the Journal of Health, "an essay bearing the above title, and published towards the close of the last century. It is full of humor and most biting satire. It was our intention to present to our readers some extracts from it before now; but in consequence of other subjects pressing in upon us of more immediate interest it has been laid aside. Our attention has been recalled to it, however, in consequence of finding it with some slight alterations transferred to a late english publication where it appears as an original article."

Against indulgence in wine, says the writer, there are, perhaps, no arguments so strong, as the arguments in its favor contained in the songs of the Bacchanalians. We are dissuaded from it by the moralist, who represents it as the fascination of a syren, which wins us over to vice by subduing our reason, and we are invited to it by the song of the Bacchanalians, as to something that will sooth our cares, inspire us with joys vehement if not permanent; and

banish from our minds the evils and troubles of life. The former seems to think, that the vice of drunkenness has so many allurements, as to require his cautions against our being seduced into it; and the latter that it has so few, as to stand in need of his strongest recommendations in its favor. "When filled with wine the poor man forgets his poverty" says Hafiz, or some other commender of wine,—and a more modern poet praises it as "unloosing the stammering tongue." In argument these words will go no farther than to prove, that he who is poor, may, by drinking, become in imagination rich, and that he who stammers, may, by the same expedient, find the temporary use of his tongue. He that is not a beggar then will recollect, that he stands in no need of any such a receipt, and he who does not stammer will think that remedy unnecessary which was intended to cure a disease with which he is not afflicted.—I can inform them too, upon pretty good authority, that the remedy in both cases is rather a doubtful one—that it has in fact, made many a rich man poor, and deprived many an Orator of his ready tongue.

Wine is further recommended to us as the inspirer of courage. "It thrusts the unarmed man to battle." That it has this effect is, I believe, very true, and so much the worse for the unarmed man. The testimony of a black eye, or a bloody nose, the frequent offspring of wine drinking, are striking proofs, that to go unarmed to battle is no great mark of wisdom nor a desirable test of courage.

Wine, however, it is said inspires confidence, and wit, and eloquence, that is, it changes modesty to impudence, ingrafts the art of joking upon dullness, and makes a long winded story teller of a fool.

While these qualifications are worth obtaining, I would have sobriety considered as a vulgarity, if not stigmatized as something worse; but when that ceases to be the case, I hope the liberal spirit of tolerating principles, which is so much the fashion of the age, will allow a moderate man, without infamy, to say; "I would rather not get drunk to day."

Indeed I have reason to believe this might be brought to pass, having seen one instance of a gentleman, with politeness, excused from taking wine, upon his producing the testimony of two experienced physicians, that he was laboring under a violent fever: & another, upon a certificate, properly authenticated, from the church wardens of the parish being presented, to show that he had lately lost his mother.

Now to turn the tables upon the wine praising poets, I could adduce without much difficulty the written experience of certain observing individuals, who have passed among their neighbors as men of sound judgment, to prove that wine, in the language of one of them, "often turns the good natured man into an idiot, and the choleric man into an assassin," that "it gives bitterness to resentment, makes vanity insupportable, and displays every little spot of the soul in its utmost deformity."

But there is another set of very weighty arguments or excuses, call them which you will, for indulgence in wine. Certain great, wise and very learned men, who have been praised and courted and admired have made free use of it. It is true that those who are not thoroughly satisfied with becoming drunkards, unless they can find precedents for their folly, may drink on under the sanction and authority of Alcæus, Aristophanes and Ennius. Dulness may still plead a right to this indulgence, because the unsteady principles of heathen morality did not stigmatize it in Cato. I could produce examples enough, under which all musicians, poets, satirists, wits and orators, may shelter themselves; and I will undertake to furnish the same kind of license for the barbers, dentists, carpenters, glaziers, blacksmiths and shoemakers, or ANY OTHER ORDER OF MEN, who will depute an embassy to call on me:—I shall only request in return, that they will allow me a trifling consideration, in their respective branches. I shall stipulate for a wig, a triple bob major, because Demosthenes shaved his head; and to have my teeth drawn, because that orator had an impediment in his speech: I must have a

wooden leg, most certainly, because Agesilaus was lame; and a pair of glass eyes because Homer was blind.—I shall by these means be supplied with as rational a set of apologies for my deformities, as they will for their intemperance; and in process of time, I have no doubt, but it will be considered as highly ornamental to be bald pated, stuttering, limping and blear eyed, as it will be to be addicted to the use of wine.”

### SURGICAL OPERATIONS.

The following pithy and excellent remarks on surgical operations are extracted from the Medico-chirurgical Review, one of the most popular Journals in England. It is conducted by Dr. Johnson, Physician Extraordinary to the King of Great Britain. An eastern editor enquires with energy, “Will such authority have any weight among the *“human Butchers”* of N. York, and other parts of the world?”

“If operations, bloody and cruel, are looked on with admiration, it can only be by those who regard plague, pestilence and famine as benefits also.—No!—Operations are our opprobrium, our disgrace, not our proper and legitimate boast: The meer OPERATOR is little better than a human Butcher by rule. At present there is too great a taste for the knife; shame to those who encourage it;—Woe to those who practice it. Unnecessary operations bring discredit on surgery; unsuccessful ones, even when perfectly justifiable, inspire doubt and repugnance to it in the public mind. Patients who see or hear of their relatives or friends submitting to barbarous and frightful maimings, only that they might live for a month or a week, feel no great relish for the knife, when its use might bring safety and a cure. What a sarcastic, what a damning catalogue of *great operations* performed within these last few years, might a diligent CXXC compile for the gratification of the world! But we have done, and we trust that these

observations may not be without their effect.”

What a degradation to the profession ~~that~~ so many cases, that to all human appearance were within the reach of the curative power of medicine, are daily turned over to the regular Butcher, to be carved and sawed like the meat in a butchers stall! It is not because our learned medical Nobility are so wise and knowing but because, after all their acquirements and fancied importance, they are so profoundly ignorant of the laws of the animal economy, they are compelled by circumstances, as the dernier resort of regular college quackery to have recourse to the knife, and cut and hew themselves into public notice. When a case occurs in which the intelligent, ingenuous surgeon finds a manual operation necessary, or indispensable, instead of boasting of his skill in the bloody and painful service, if he have a spark of humanity remaining he must mourn over the lamentable deficiency of his medical and surgical knowledge—that he could not prescribe means or furnish remedies to preclude the necessity of those operations that can not fail to wave the flag of melancholy degradation over the whole *Posse comitatus* of the medical REGULARS.

Medical practice and operative surgery are distinct branches of business—The professions of Physic and Surgery however they may be confounded in common apprehension, are as distinct as that of the grain grower and the miller. The physicians shame commences at the corner of that street where dire necessity compels him to call in the mechanical aid of the operative surgeon. If he unites both professions in his own person, where his skill as an operator with the knife is resorted to, it is at the risk of sacrificing his reputation as a skillful physician, on the altar of manual surgery. Why my dear sir; could you not arrest the progress of



inflammation and gangreen that you had recourse to the knife? Could you not with all your skill, aided by a diplomatic parchment, with popular prejudices in your favor, and under the protection of the law, heal that ill conditioned ulcer? Did all your skill and medical knowledge utterly fail you, that you were compeled to mangle and maim a fellow being, and remove with instruments of surgical butchery, an hand or a foot, an arm or a leg, or plant your bloody tools in the female bosom?

And while she wreaths in distress and anguish beneath the dexterous hand that severs her breast from her body, can you forget, that the recital of the tragic scene, in the contemplation of which your vain, proud, unfeeling heart is dreaming of increasing fame, is only the blast of a trumpet that consigns the craft to infamy? It is the knell of all your glory!

### PLAIN AND UNDENIABLE FACTS.

The peculiar and distinguishing excellence of Doctor Thomson's system of medical practice appears to be, that he has adapted his whole plan to the comprehension of the common reader. The plain english scholar is not insulted by the greek and latin terms and bombastic technicalities of the mere bookmaker. His writings are plain and easy to be understood. He has not aspired to plunge into the dark abyss of mystical philosophy. Unskilled in the legendary lore of ancient or modern universities, he explores the volume of nature and draws the rich treasures of wisdom and knowledge from her simple page. He writes, not for amusement but for instruction—not for applause and admiration, but to be useful to mankind—not to acquire a great name and accumulate a fortune for himself or his patrons, but to diffuse the knowledge and benefits of his discoveries to the

remotest habitations of civilised society.

The novelty of his system—the demonstrations of its superiority—the unequivocal efficacy of his remedies in the removal of disease, are circumstances worthy the profound attention of all honest people. Testimonials of the successfulness of Thomsonian medicine, strictly, so called, have been so extensively multiplied and so thoroughly confirmed, as to preclude the possibility of successful contradiction. The tide of opposition has set heavily against him and his disciples from the commencement of his career in medical discoveries.—The regular Faculty, were unwilling to believe that Samuel Thomson, a man unknown in the schools of physic, a peasant from the wild wood shade & isolated scenery of ALSTEAD, could be able to teach them the first principles of medicine. Shall the "voice of one crying in the wilderness," a voice issuing from the lonely hants of poverty bring any welcome tidings to our ears? Can any good thing spring from the obscurity of nazareth was an ancient inquiry? For a while, every thing passed smoothly on. As his fame began to spread, jealousy began to rear its haggard visage. Dungeons and chains were the portion of him who sought the welfare of all. The fire of persecution was kindled from Hamshire to Georgia and from the atlantic to the far distant wilds of the western world. The civil authorities were every where engaged to put him down.

The windham pills were in peaceful circulation—Perkins was amusing the credulous with his metallic tractors—Dyott was vending his Nostrums—Quackery was playing its pranks without molestation. The mercurialisers were carrying on the work of death and met not a frown from the dupes of learned impositions; but Thomson had reared the formidable standard of truth, at which error

trembled, black hearted malice pushed at him a deadly sabre; But Thomson with philosophic stability pursued the even tenor of his way.—Disease in its most terrific forms yielded to his matchless skill; patrons have been multiplied, until thousands of families in these United States, possessed of a competent degree of his knowledge in the healing art, are rejoicing in his discoveries, and bless the day they first heard his name and became acquainted with his masterly skill. Many generous sons of science award him the meed of deserved praise.

Yet strange to tell, such is the incorrigible obstinacy of many, that they will close their eyes and ears against the truth, without candid, honest, faithful inquiry, condemn by wholesale what they have never clearly understood, and with them the name of Thomson is a by word, and song of reproach. The mighty cause is working its way—cures have been multiplied to the astonishment of its most vindictive enemies—It triumphs over the ancient practice in these United States has been complete in the late distressing visitation by the Asiatic cholera. The strenuous efforts at contradiction have been too scandalous, impudent and incredible to sustain a sinking cause. Thomson's botanic remedies have been put to the test—they have been tried as by fire and have acquired a reputation not to be shaken by envy or deposed by insolence and falsehood. The Faculty as usual have been and still are at war among themselves. Contradictory theories are asserted and maintained by learned professors.—The literary tornados, of conflicting theories and conflicting practice sweep through our medical colleges and extend a desolating influence through all sections of our country—with some, calomel and the lancet are a tree of life, with others they are ranked

with the most formidable weapons of death. How then shall the ignorant and unlearned repose confidence in their scientific wisdom? "Who shall decide, when doctors disagree?"—Surely the Regular Faculty are destitute of any regular system. They sail without any regular compass, helm or pilot. They drift down the dangerous stream of dark conjecture, or ride on the boisterous billows of scientific pride and delusion. In the high places of medical science, the House and Kingdom of the regular Doctors is divided, sorely divided, and rapidly approximating a state of consummated desolation. Thomson's discoveries are like a flaming Beacon on the mountain summit that cannot be concealed. It is a light calculated for family use—His remedies are simple, and efficacious. His plan uniform, with only incidental allowances accommodated to circumstantial occurrences, requires no pathological devices, to allude enquiry and deceive the multitude. His remedies are few in number, but most sure in producing a happy result, when judiciously applied, of any with which the world is at present acquainted—Instead of such a multitude of remedies for a multitude of diseases as taught in the ancient schools of physic, he has reduced every thing to such a simple state in his descriptions and prescriptions, that plain honest common sense need not miss the road, but travel on with perfect safety—follow their leader without danger—and in all curable cases, all cases within the reach of art they may proceed in the full confidence of almost infallible success. Who then having this knowledge will turn aside to pursue an *Ignis fatuus* called reformation. It is Thomson's scheme of practice that has astonished the world by its successfulness, any thing in the vain, proud, vaunting pretensions of reforming plagiarism to the contrary notwithstanding.

## PHYSIOLOGY.

Mr. Howard, the erudite sapient author of a work entitled, "the improved system of botanical medicine, founded upon correct physiological principles," has certainly made extravagant demands on public confidence. This title page has an imposing sound: himself appears to be sensible that "upon the face of it is stamped the impress of novelty and innovation."

Concerning his first volume he saith, "We have devoted ourselves exclusively to an illustration of the general principles of life, of disease, and method of cure." This would seem almost to exclude the necessity of a second volume. "It will not be at all surprising," says Mr. Howard p 3d part 2nd. "If an attentive reader should find *some parts* too superficially, whilst others may be too obscurely, too loosely, or too unconnectedly treated." If these charges can be fairly sustained against a work of such high pretensions, these ponderous volumes weighed in the ballance of correct reflection, must be grossly deficient. Now sir, we will not pretend that ourselves are very attentive readers, or that we are ever burthened with the gift of great discernment, but, if Mr. Howard can so plainly discover such glaring and capital defects in his favorite production, designed to direct the high destinies of medical science to the consumation of its glory, he cannot have any good reason to be surprised, that with the dulness of common understanding, we should admit, as highly probable, that his censure and voluntary penance are correct. He fully admits that it is a superficial obscure loose unconnected composition in some parts, of course he need not be much surprised that others, less partial, should discover similar deficiencies in many other places, especially if they should by chance be attentive readers. These must be the only competent judges—let their decision then be final. He has anticipated the award of this class of readers. If his book at any time, or in any place acquires a different character, it must be derived from another source, from the inattentive incompetent decisi-

on of inattentive and superficial observers. "*We say*," says Mr. Howard, "It will not be surprising," that is to find "*some parts*" in which his subjects are "too superficially, obscurely, loosely, and unconnectedly treated." "Because it is not only the first work attempted of the kind, but **MANY PARTS** of it were *hastily written*, and committed to the press without the opportunity of maturing it by reflection, which is so *essentially necessary*, in a work, embracing so many *new views*, and so wide a range." These concessions, coming from the pen of Mr. Howard, excite the enquiry, why all this hurry, turmoil and confusion? Why so hastily written? Why committed to the press without maturing it by reflection? If these things be *essentially necessary* in a work embracing so many *new views* and so wide a range, we are irresistably drawn to the unavoidable conclusion, that not only some, but many parts must inevitably be "*superficially, obscurely, loosely, and unconnectedly, treated.*" Nevertheless, he is like paddy addressing a letter to his friend, so badly composed, spelt and written, that he could scarcely decipher his own manuscript, consoled himself with the reflection that his correspondent was the better scholar of the two, and of course would be able to read and understand his "*superficial obscure, loose and unconnected*" epistle. We find Mr. Howard in a similar dilemma, sagely observing. "We trust that the careful reader will *readily understand* the important principles that we have laid down, upon which the healing art is *based*, and on which medicines must act in the restoration of health." After all, even the "careful reader," if he should read the work in the manner it was written and committed to the press, "*hastily, without the opportunity of maturing it by reflection,*" may find some difficulty among these *superficial, obscure, loose and unconnected* materials, to bring order out of confusion, light out of chaotic darkness, to find firmness and solidity in what is confessedly "*loose and superficial.*" Is this the base of the healing art? Does the improved system of botanic medicine and correct physiology rest on

such a "superficial, obscure, loose and unconnected" a foundation? If such be the foundation what must the superstructure be?

Mr. Howard presents himself to his readers in the imposing character of a reformer, but provided with the panoply of many apologies for subsequent defence, or the better to secure a safe retreat in case of emergency and danger.

### WHO IS THE AUTHOR?

We find as many difficulties in deciding with any degree of certainty who is the real author of the improved system of botanic medicine, as to decide who wrote the famous work called JUNIUS' LETTERS. When we cast our eyes at the title page and enquire whose image and superscription is this? We discern, towards the bottom where authors usually place their signatures, the name of Horton Howard conspicuously displayed. On the third page of the second volume, at the commencement of his preface, we are presented with a series of excuses and apologies for the superficial, obscure, loose and unconnected manner in which the work has been executed. We are informed that it was written hastily, without time to mature it by reflection, that in this hasty, premature manner, it was committed to the press. At the commencement of his first volume he endeavors to prepossess his readers with a good opinion of his qualifications to become an author of a new and improved system of medical practice. He asserts that in early life he "devoted a portion of his time to the study of medicine," among other motives, that he might "acquire the knowledge of a useful and honorable avocation for life. Stimulated" says he "by these earnest hopes and sentiments, I prosecuted my book studies, aided by the best physicians of my acquaintance, until I had acquired a competent knowledge of the practice of medicine"! In fact he would have us to believe that the labors of his life had been eminently directed to this particular work: yet after all it is hurried into the world "hastily, without opportunity to mature it by reflection." With all the labor and expense bestowed, it is confessedly "superficial, obscure, loose

and unconnected," as the attentive reader may discover, and Mr. Howard will not be surprised,

If Mr. Howard were the real author of this work, we could more readily admit of some apology. When we reflect that he had devoted his whole life to medical research, that he was not satisfied that "the knowledge of botanic medicine should remain in so imperfect a state" that he has been "at all the trouble and expense of collecting the materials and preparing the work for publication; in other words "bringing it into existence"—that it is upon these considerations he claims the authorship as his own, it would seem as though he must be the legitimate father of the work. But with the early acquisition of a competency of medical knowledge, or "competent knowledge of the practice of medicine," his extensive "acquaintance with the members of the medical faculty," and "familiar intercourse with the profession"—the time, labour, expense, reading, writing, travelling among the Indians—having early conceived the design of effecting a medical reformation, it must be confessed, that it appears a little extraordinary, that he should be thrown into such a bustle at last. We think it surprising to hear him say, "that it was hastily written and committed to the press without the opportunity of maturing it by reflection." Why all this mighty haste Mr. Howard? Why sir, we think we can understand your reflections and the meditations of your retirements. Your train of thoughts must have been something like this: "I have been a general agent for Dr. Thomson, I found the business somewhat lucrative—he has become dissatisfied with my conduct and deposed me from my agency—I determine I will have redress of these grievances—I understand these pecuniary matters better than I did before—I have learned by experience—I have heretofore extolled Thomson so highly that it will be difficult to tread back the bold and resolute steps I have taken in his defence—I will set up a lamentation over his deficiencies—I will raise the cry of reformation—with artful management I can gain on the credulity of the multitude and "reap a golden harvest.--

Whatever can be done to advantage must be done rapidly. The Thomsonian cause is progressing—his agents are active and enterprising, his system is simple and intelligible, and his practice successful beyond all precedent. Whatever can be done, must be done promptly. It be done superficially, obscurely, loosely and unconnectedly—if it be hurried to the press “without the opportunity for reflection.” It will answer our purpose if we can bring the work into existence and push it into circulation in due season. Delays and misfortunes go together. Whatever can be done to advantage in this business must be done so “hastily” we have no possible “opportunity of mature reflection.” If we can effect a lucrative sale of our publication; we can reflect at our leisure.”

“I also deem it,” says Mr. Howard, “an act of justice to the public and to myself, as well as to Dr. WILLIAM HANCE, to state that he has assisted me in the collection of materials and in their selection and arrangement for this work. His zeal in the improvement of medical botany; his deep research and laborious investigation; his new, peculiar, and as I conceive, correct views of the principles of medical science, the very foundation upon which the healing art is based, have been of great service, nay, of indispensable utility to me in the preparation of the following pages.” “I would feel myself,” continues Mr. Howard, “guilty of injustice to his character and to that confidence which the public has justly placed in his talents, did I omit acknowledging, in this manner, that he is more justly entitled to the authorship of this work than myself; and I intended that his name should have gone to the world as its author; but to this his modesty has induced him to refuse his consent.”—This excess of modesty is not a spirit of annoyance to Mr. Howard. Notwithstanding such a prodigy of intellect and talent, natural and acquired, common and extraordinary, and the affinities, combinations, associations and concentrations of genius and wisdom on the then pending emergency, Howard will not be “surprised if an attentive reader should find some parts too superficially, whilst others may be too

obscurely, too loosely or too unconnectedly treated.”

What does Mr. Howard intend to insinuate by saying, “It is the first work attempted of the kind?” He cannot mean that no work had ever been written before on the general principles of life, of disease, and method of cure.—He cannot mean that it is the first work of the kind ever attempted by himself, for “Dr. Hance is more justly entitled to the authorship than himself.” Suffer us now most candidly to enquire who is the real author of the work, taken as a whole? Or if we take it in detached parcels, suffer us to enquire who is the real author of the first volume, which treats of “physiology, anatomy” &c. that has gone forth to the world in Mr. Howard’s name, and for which he appears so solicitous for applause? But more especially anxious to reap a “golden harvest?” We should be specially pleased to learn from his own concessions, the precise sum, viz: how many hundred dollars Mr. Howard paid to Dr. S. R. for writing his “concise view” &c. Anatomy and philosophy being subjects with which it is presumed our reformer is but “superficially, obscurely, loosely and unconnectedly” acquainted, if his “concise view,” had been written by himself, we should not have been “at all surprised,” if his “concise view” had contained but a *slight glance*, and the reader, being less acquainted with the subject than himself, would have had only a *glimpse at a glance*, a mere shadow of a shade.

Mr. Howard must have been sensible that it was an urgent case—whatever was to be done had to be done quickly. Every head and every pen that could subserve any valuable purpose, must be put in requisition. Thomsonianism is fairly under way—it requires haste to arrest its progress. Stern chase is always difficult: notwithstanding so many *accoucheurs* have been employed to midwife this work into existence, considering all the circumstances, “It will not be at all surprising” says Mr. Howard, “if an attentive reader should find some parts too superficially, whilst others may be too obscurely, too loosely or too unconnectedly treated.” Of the second volume he says, “we have



drawn our descriptions, and all other important information from every accessible source, and hope we shall be pardoned throughout, for crediting but few quotations or authorities which we thought proper to use. The works principally consulted are, THOMSON, RAFINESQUE, ROGER, THATCHER, BIGELOW, BARTON and SMITH." Thus we see the work was mostly prepared to his hand—terrible indeed must have been the hurry, with all these advantages that "many parts of it were hastily written, and committed to the press without the opportunity of maturing it by reflection, which is so essentially necessary in a work embracing so many *new views*." With Mr. Howard's golden visions, things "essentially necessary must be dispensed with—The work must go on rapidly—the business required haste—Mr. Howard understands to a punctillo, "there is a tide in human affairs, which taken at the flood leads on to fortune."

Now kind reader, who is the real author of this work? Whose wife shall she be in the reformation?

#### H. D. LITTLE, ESQ.

How many have clubbed their heads and hearts and pens with a view to the high reputation of medical reformers with an eye single to the "*golden harvest*" we will not now attempt to determine; but a coalition is formed and Harvey D. Little, Esq. Attorney at Law, and son in law to Mr. Howard, Editor of the Eclectic and medical Botanist printed at Columbus Ohio, has not forgotten the "first commandment with promises." In his first number, having first paid a kind of derogatory compliment to Dr. THOMSON, he very pompously observes, "The next *great REFORMER*, who has succeeded him," [THOMSON,] is HORTON HOWARD of this Town: with a naturally vigorous mind, well stored with general information; and a judgment matured by a long course of extensive reading and attentive observation, he has engaged in the noble work of revolutionising medicine, of stripping it of all

mystery, and of presenting it to the world in its native purity. How far he has succeeded, remains for the voice of mankind to determine. But it is due to him to say, that he has devoted a number of years of almost constant study to the subject of medical botany; extending his researches into this interesting science, without regard to difficulties, laborious exertions, or pecuniary expense. And the result has been, the completion and publication of an invaluable work upon the physiology of man; the pathology of diseases—and the application of simple, safe, and efficacious remedies, to preserve and restore him to health. Both his Theory and Practice are founded upon a new combination of principles, in strict accordance with correct physiology, and in harmony with the principle operations of nature, as displayed in the human system. His works are comprised in three octavo volumes, and illustrated with plates." We shall not take time to express our admiration at Mr. Little's extreme modesty in the panegyric and fulsome adulation paid to Mr. Howard. He is undoubtedly by natural right, or heirship, entitled to a dividend of the pending "*golden harvest*." Is it possible, that after all, "It will not be at all surprising, if an attentive reader should find some parts too superficially, whilst others may be too obscurely, too loosely, or too unconnectedly treated?"

Is this the work of which the writer says, whoever he may chance to be, "MANY PARTS of it were hastily written and committed to the press *without the opportunity* of maturing it by reflection?" In a work embracing so many *new views*, and so wide a range," tumbled together under such unpropitious and disadvantageous circumstances, is there no danger of the reader being misled? Is there no danger that his prescriptions may not always be as safe and efficacious as

Mr. Little would induce us to believe? Is there no danger that the New combination of principles" upon which his Theory and Practice are founded, may constitute some of the many parts, "hastily written and committed to the press without the opportunity of maturing by reflection?" Is this a sufficient guaranty for our personal safety in reposing implicit faith in all his prescriptions? In these extravagant encomiums Mr. Little has bestowed upon his father-in-law, to give currency to his works, if he has "*opportunity for reflection*," but we know he is very busy, must he not "feel himself guilty of injustice to the character of Dr. HANCE, and to that confidence which the public has JUSTLY placed in his talents," by omitting to acknowledge, as Mr. Howard has done, that HE is more justly entitled to the AUTHORSHIP of this work than HIMSELF. As the Editor of the Eclectic has said, "I deem it an act of justice to state that he," viz: Mr. Howard, "has no direction or control over the matter prepared for this publication;" he alone is responsible for the folly of his adulation and panegyric conferred on Mr. Howard: He alone is guilty of the injustice done to Dr. HANCE, and to the public, in withholding from him the meed of deserved praise. If there be any virtue remaining, if there be any encomiums due, "think on these things."

#### LOBELIA INFLATA.

This plant has been mentioned by Linæus, and a name and a place has been assigned to it in the classifications of more modern botanical writers. Its genus and order may have been correctly understood, but its medicinal efficacy has never been divulged nor even mentioned by any author until its virtues were ascertained by Samuel Thomson. Here we defy the world. We court investigation, and appeal to facts. For a season the Priests, Lawyers and Doctors, a literary host, in his native state, formed a deadly coalition

intent on his destruction: *Lobelia* was denounced, defamed, derided and condemned by the Regular physicians and their patrons and associates, as a most fatal poison, and Thomson as a murderer. History may lie, but in his case the facts are too numerous, too recent and too well substantiated to admit of a successful contradiction. *Lobelia* has travelled extensively—thousands have entertained the stranger—and have no fears of any indecorous or improper conduct—having given it a welcome reception, they are now rejoicing that they have been introduced to an acquaintance so worthy of their esteem. Professors in our medical universities have begun to sound its reputation—the multitude have heard its fame. The disappointment, chagrin and mortification of literary pride is notoriously proclaimed. Opposition has changed her note. His enemies contend that *lobelia* is a remedy known to the ancients, used by the indians, and administered in early times by the regulars. These artifices are but a refuge of lies, where the champions of envy and detraction wish now to entrench themselves.—Facts are too numerous and recent for such falsehood and deception to maintain their ground. Thomson has been the first to discover and to announce to the world the genuine character or medical qualities, or powers of *Lobelia Inflata*. The record is before us—more than sufficient one would think to bear home irresistible conviction of the truth of our assertion to every candid honest mind. Here then is the dilemma—and this the reflection of confused malevolence. "If I affirm that *lobelia* is a dangerous poison and has been known to kill, I cannot prove my assertion—I cannot make the people believe it—they have tried it and proved it—they know it is powerful to remove disease, but has no influence to induce any disorder whatever. Thomson and others have been tried for their lives for using it, but no competent testimony could be raised to bring about their condemnation—even regular gentlemen of the medical cloth, have solemnly sworn that *lobelia* was a dangerous poison, but there has always been a number of equally credible witnesses who have upset their testimony and in-

volved them in a labyrinth of contradictions and lies. If we confess its salutary influence and acknowledge the safety and efficacy thereof, that it is harmless in its operation, and powerful to remove disease and repair the decay of declining nature, we are involved in an unpleasant inconsistency. The inquiry will be: If Lobelia be such a safe, yet powerful remedy for disease, why have the faculty condemned it? It must be either through ignorance of its real merits, or from downright wickedness of heart. It will be asked why did you oppose its use so strenuously before Thomson and his adherents bore down your opposition by irresistible testimony? There is a very glaring inconsistency some where. If its virtues have been known so long to the faculty, why have they opposed it at all? Why have they so violently condemned it, instead of honestly recommending it to their patients?"

The truth is, it was not known as a medicine of such peculiar excellency, until Dr. Thomson made the discovery and promulgated the facts to the world. The Doctor states "In giving a description of this valuable herb, I shall be more particular, BECAUSE IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ARTICLE MADE USE OF IN MY PRACTICE, without which it would be incomplete, and the medical virtues of which and the administering it in curing disease, *I claim as my own discovery.*" "The first knowledge I ever had of it was obtained by accident more than forty years ago, and I never had any information whatever concerning it, except what I have gained by my own experience."

It was from Dr. Thomson's instructions, and not from Professor RAFINESQUE, nor yet from the INDIANS that Mr. Howard learned that the LOBELIA is the most valuable and efficient emetic known—that "Its equal has not yet come to the knowledge of the world"—It would be unreasonable to doubt for a moment that this fact, so unhesitatingly asserted, constitutes an important item in that "vast accession of useful knowledge" obtained from him, of which he proudly boasts, and on account of which he "*sincerely congratulates his friends.*" This

is the REFORMER who ventures to tell the world, that he has "Left Dr. Thomson's rights and privileges untouched."

#### APPEARANCES.

It appears, that Mr. Howard is extremely industrious.—His exertions abroad are indefatigable—Thomsonians appear in general to stand fast to the genuine standard. Howard's silvery tongue, insinuating manners, and untiring zeal on his onward way abroad, and the determined perseverance of his son-in-law, Mr. Little at home, in editing & circulating the Eclectic to found the fame of the old man, to blow a trumpet before him, and behind him, and all around him, is quite a *family concert*. With what grace the high encomiums of a son-in-law proceed, whose pecuniary prospects in this matter are chained to the car of his Father's popularity? How far Dr. Hance may share in the spoils of conquered foes, or in the "golden harvest" before them, who can determine? Hance, the principle workmen in this great work, this *Rare avis in terris*, this rare bird in the earth, is kept rather in the back ground. He is "more entitled to the reputation of being the real author of the Improved System" than its reputed Father.—It is to be hoped he will not be overlooked in the making out of the dividends in the winding up of the campaign.

### THE RECORDER.

#### COLUMBUS,

SATURDAY, FEB. 23, 1833.

A respectable correspondent, in a letter dated Baltimore, Feb. 17th instant, observes—"It affords me peculiar pleasure to have it in my power to inform you, that our valued friend, Dr. Samuel Thomson, is now in this city, and probably will not leave us until Monday morning. I am happy to discover that he is much better pleased than he formerly appeared to be, after crossing the mountains—God grant that it should ever continue to be the case."

#### TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

Several communications have been received which will be attended to as

we may have opportunity. Original essays, and all interesting intelligence, comporting with our general design will always be thankfully received. We wish to make our pages interesting to our readers. *PHILOMEDICUS'* communication has received our irrevocable veto. However exceptionable we may esteem the conduct of Mr. Howard towards Dr. Thomson and in the management of his business, we have no disposition to enter the parlour, the dining room, or kitchen and intrude on the hallowed scenes of domestic retirement to hunt for items of complaint, or seek occasion to sport with human feelings, especially on points that have no immediate connection with the subject matter of the controversy.

*DRACUS* appears to be a bloody fellow. He would give us medical law without mercy. We know the source from which he borrowed the following expressions: "The favoured botanical, with no knowledge beyond the art of steaming, may vomit with his lobelia, parboil with his steam, and finally pepper his patients to death, with perfect impunity, unless indeed the murder can be brought home upon him, in a criminal prosecution." We must labor under a most intolerable dearth of matter to induce us to pollute our pages with such turbulent slang. It is questionable whether a stalk of lobelia can be often found beyond the boundaries of civilization—we will not object however to *Dracus* making use of it for the same purpose that Indians are said to have employed it. It might "clear his head!"

A correspondent at Murfreesborough under date of Jan. 7, 1833, observes.

"You can make mention in the Recorder that I have received several nos. of Howard's Eclectic, edited by Mr. Little. After a careful perusal of them I am inclined to believe that the object is to enlist the feelings of the people in favor of Howard, that he may make money at Thomson's expense. How-

ard's Tincture of Myrrh and his cholera drops, if we may so call them, are fully sufficient of themselves to satisfy any body, that has any tolerable information on the subject. In relation to the point alluded to, it all carries the same appearance in the reading. Mr. Little continues to send his paper—I have not consented to read but very little of the two last. I am now acting as an agent for Doctor Thomson's general agents, and I do not wish to have any thing farther to do with Mr. Howard or Mr. Little—I can not discover that there is any thing really good intended by them."

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore existing between *RUFUS FERRIS*, *THOMAS JOHNSON*, *HIRAN PLATT* and *JARVIS PIKE*, under the title of the firm of *PIKE, PLATT & Co.* General Agents of Dr. Samuel Thomson is this day dissolved. *MR. PLATT* having by mutual consent of all the parties concerned, withdrawn from the firm.

The business will be in future conducted

by *RUFUS FERRIS*, } General Agents  
*THOMAS JOHNSON*, } of Dr. SAMUEL  
 and *JARVIS PIKE*. } THOMSON.

This firm will be known and distinguished by the name, term, title or appellation of *Jarvis Pike & Co.* at Columbus Ohio. The withdrawal of Mr. Platt from the agency will have no tendency to interrupt the business or any way to impede the operations of the agency. The present arrangement has been made by the mutual consent of all parties in the agency, and in the presence and by consent of Dr. Thomson himself. All debts contracted, or that may now be due from the former firm of *Pike, Platt & Co.* will be promptly discharged by the firm of *Jarvis Pike, & Co.* All the debts due to *Pike, Platt & Co.* are transferred to the present agents viz. *Jarvis Pike, & Co.* All such dues will be thankfully received by them. All communications relating to or connected with the business of the company will be addressed to *JARVIS PIKE, & Co.*, Columbus, Ohio.

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"

"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HERSEY, Senior Editor.

VOL. I.] COLUMBUS, MARCH 2, 1833. [No. 11.

## A REGULAR PHYSICIAN.

The strife among the Faculty, time immemorial, has been, not who should be the most worthy and deserving, but who should be greatest among them. They have ever had an eye to popular favor, to secure to themselves not only the honors, but the pecuniary emoluments and advantages arising from being the reputed Lords of the ascendant. Sectarian philosophy hangs in gloomy shadows round our medical colleges. Those whom chance or stratagem have elevated to stations of distinguished eminence seem to unite only in one article of their creed, viz:

"To have money, is a necessary task;

"From whence 'tis got, the world will never ask."

Where there is no immediate collision of interest, that is, when they are so circumstanced that they do not stand in each others' way, they pay some regard to the golden rule, but in a manner foreign from the hallowed design of the divine Author of the precept. Their practical comment is this,

"Tickle me! Mr. M. D., do!

"And in return I'll tickle you."

These supercilious movements, and often simultaneous efforts, do not solve the question or adjust our difficulties arising from the enquiry, WHO IS THE REGULAR DOCTOR? Time has been when a man having been engaged three years in a reputable practice, or producing satisfactory evidence of having attended one course of lectures at some reputable institution, had a legal claim to the distinguishing appellation of REGULAR DOCTOR!

The qualifications that would not enable the individual to enter within the walls of some universities, or to be considered as regularly initiated into a course of medical studies, in other places have been accounted sufficient to entitle the person to diplomatic honors, the consummation of all his hopes and wishes. Can we among these conflicting elements of quackish ambition, de-

termine with certainty, the degree of knowledge, natural or acquired, that constitutes a man a *regular physician*?

It was not until some years of republican prosperity had rolled over these United States, and many had acquired large fortunes, and given their sons a liberal education, or at least something more than common learning, and professional characters of the above description began to be multiplied, that the mighty strife was conducted to such unprecedented lengths; we mean in our own country. The big fish have always eat the little ones, so have those who had the most money, and most popular education, determined, that they must have room to circulate, and exercise their skill, and enjoy unmolested distinguishing privileges. They have every where been prating and writing for more than thirty years, about elevating the "standard of medical excellence." Obstacles have been multiplied to impede the march of intellect to allure genius from a hopeful pursuit of honest fame, and to make the avenue leading to her temple accessible only by pecuniary means, beyond the power of any but the more wealthy part of community to command.

Many appear to be fascinated with a poet's fancy, that a "*little learning is a dangerous thing*;" but happy would it have been for the United States, if all the moneys bestowed on colleges, universities, academies and popular seminaries of learning, which have been so extensively patronized, *if every dollar*, ever expended on the favoured few, and many millions more, had been appropriated for universal benefit, to diffuse the blessings of general information. Whatever creates a monopoly of interest or fame, is dangerous to the perpetuity of our republican institutions.—A writer fixes his standard thus, "The knowledge necessary to the judicious administration of medicine, requires an acquaintance with all the diseases incident to the body and the



mind, in all their variously combined conditions, together with all the numerous symptomatic affections thence arising, as well as a mere knowledge of the properties of the remedies to be given."

The writer has not referred to any individual living whom he will recognise as constituting a specimen of one of those wonderful beings,

"Whose mind capacious soaring out of sight,

"Ken's far beyond the reach of solar light,

"Leaving dull mortals on this earthly sphere,

"To toil and lag in their distant rear!"

But all these dreams of our vanity-stricken faculty,

"Who having pass'd academy and college

"Claim adoration for their wondrous knowledge."

have not yet established with precision the exact idea, of what is implied, or intended to be implied, in the term, or expression **REGULAR DOCTOR**. Like pursuing a line of longitude towards the poles, your object is always ahead. It reminds one of the interrogation of the Poet,

"Ask, Where's the North? At York 'tis on the Tweed,

"In Scotland, at the Orcades; and there,

"At Greenland, Zembla, and the Lord knows where."

### CHLORIDE OF LIME.

In the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, and many other distinguished periodicals, this article is spoken of in high terms. By the condensed condition of its alkaline qualities, it has powerful effects on neutralizing septic acid, correcting the putrid exhalations from privy vaults, and cleaning the atmospheric impurities arising in any place from the decomposition of putrifying animal and vegetable substances. "No one," says the Journal, "who has not used this article can duly appreciate its value for domestic use, particularly in the summer season. Every house keeper should keep a bottle of it in his privy, and, every second or third morning, pour two or

three table spoons full of the powder into the vault." This article, which comes so highly recommended, is worthy the trial in all towns where the population is becoming dense and the sources of atmospheric impurities multiplied. A regard is due in all decent society, not only to the salutary effects of this article in relation to health, but to the agreeable correction it gives to the unpleasant effluvia with which such vaults and many other places are frequently infested. It is a cheap article and can be found in most of our large towns and is most undoubtedly well worthy the attention of the police of all such places, whose duty it is to exercise a discrete ingenuous guardianship over the health and lives of the citizens.

### SWEET POTATOES.

We feel disposed to do ample justice to the talents, aspiring genius and superior excellence, as manifested in the unprecedented discoveries of Mr. Howard. His name is becoming very familiar to our readers. As soon as it is mentioned a number can say, "We know who you mean, we have heard something of him before." To strangers we would say, suffer us to introduce you to an acquaintance with **HORTON HOWARD**. Pardon gentlemen! we ask pardon! It is **DR. HOWARD! THE REFORMER!!!** His laborious and minute account of himself, and the extraordinary cure of an obstinate, "*grievous dysentery, or kind of bloody flux,*" that stuck to him through eight long and tedious years, by eating *sweet potatoes*, is a most sublime discovery; it is every way worthy of the author, of the **IMPROVED SYSTEM of Botanic Medicine**. He claims the discovery as being exclusively his own. This may account, satisfactorily, for "*so many new views, and so wide a range.*" "Believing that he owes it as a legacy to the world, he records it for the benefit of posterity." "His native country, North Carolina, where he then resided, *produced* sweet potatoes in abundance, of which he was very fond, but they produced **FLATULENCY**, and his bowels being always relaxed, he supposed he must refrain from them, as

their WINDINESS seemed insuperable! But observing the condition of small children, MANY of whom in that country, during fall and winter, live almost entirely on them; and noticing that their bowels were always in good order; he conceived the idea that to live almost, or altogether on sweet potatoes, would be beneficial to himself, and determined, let the event be what it might to give them a thorough trial!!!

We will not say, that we are not somewhat fond of sweet potatoes. The farinaceous and sarcharine matter they contain, like many other esculent roots, render them quite nutritious; "yet we will not conceal our firm convictions" that, "in a work embracing so many new views, and so wide a range," through such vast fields of sweet potatoes, "that important advantages would result from the classification of" sweet potatoes, "according to their most obvious effects upon the system." He has not told us whether they operate by some astringent, or demulcent mollifying quality. In fact, we do not recollect any specific, medicinal effect produced by them, that he has particularly named, except their flatulency.

We do not consider a reasonable fondness for "sweet potatoes" any evidence of a depraved appetite: However, the effect of being almost, or altogether "confined to sweet potatoes," clear potatoes; and nothing but "sweet potatoes," is best known to those who have tried the experiment.

The Carolinians will not thank him for the compliment paid to their national character. If they should attempt to nullify his account of them, as being such greedy consumers of "sweet potatoes," we should not be surprised. Whether the accusation be true or false, we should not be surprised if some should think, that this part of the statement might have been omitted—or to say the least; that it was "hastily written and committed to the press without opportunity of mature reflection." Had he been writing a treatise on NATIONAL ECONOMY, it might have been considered a more patriotic and philanthropic deed. Thus to combine, scientifically, health and frugality, would have given him a "wide

range" and furnished scope for a faithful imagination, from the giddy heights of his discoveries and revelations, to speak modestly of his "new views." Even then he might have omitted the "insuperable" consequences which it is not lawful to utter in all companies.

Should the Carolinians feel themselves under special obligation for these "new views," the citizens of the northern States might prefer a plea of abatement against his high pretensions.—They would often find it difficult to avail themselves of so palatable a medicine; upon so extensive a scale—many would hardly have the courage to take so "wide a range," mauler all consequences, or as Mr. Howard says, "Let the event be what it might."

If there is any specific virtue in the "sweet potatoe," it is even possible, that some one might have noticed it before. We have not been among the Indians to inquire. If Carolinians have been acquainted with the fact and have not mentioned it, we do not imagine that their neglect arose from any want of benevolence. But, not being BOOK MAKERS and REFORMERS, they have not recorded the result of their experience, ambitious to be enrolled among the Benefactors of mankind!

This was an isolated case. The circumstantial detail he has given, may possibly, be interesting to some, but, it is presumed, to none more than to Mr. Howard, whose volume of discoveries, improvements, "new views," and "wide range" could thereby be enlarged, and his usual deficiency in interesting matter relieved by his minute circumstantial laborious account of the Carolina sweet potatoes.

Forgetting the things that are behind, let us pursue the story to its consummation. "After a while he could omit the POTATOES a whole day, but he must resume their use once or more, on the day following, or the lax would return." His strength now became considerably restored, and the flow of blood entirely ceased; but there was still a discharge of slimy mucus. In a little time more, perhaps in twelve or fourteen weeks from the commencement of the use of sweet potatoes, every unnatural discharge ceased; HAVING TAKEN NO MEDICINE OF ANY KIND FROM

**THE FIRST COMMENCEMENT WITH THE SWEET POTATOES**" and "the winter was now far spent," says Mr. Howard, and the crop of potatoes became exhausted; but by the use of **IRISH POTATOES**, the cure was perfected"

The whole recital of these "NEW VIEWS" of the Carolina sweet potatoe is pretty much of a potatoe story from first to last. We do not question that a mild farinaceous diet might have been of some advantage; but let us indulge our enquiries—what was it that we have reason to believe, contributed materially to the prolongation and aggravation of the violent long continued bowel complaint of which Mr. Howard has given such a lengthy and minute detail!

A man of so many "new views" and so "wide a range," the author of "An Improved System of Botanic Medicine," we should have thought might have seen clearly one powerful occasion of these multifarious aggravations, and understood more perfectly the indirect means by which he obtained relief.

We notice with some interest his pointed assertion, "He applied to, and exhausted the skill of all the physicians of his acquaintance." Was not that enough? Whatever might have induced some intestinal derangement—here was a cause sufficient to account for the perpetuity of the complaint, and the ultimate difficulty in effecting its entire removal. In connection with this statement we notice in the sequel, his "HAVING TAKEN NO MEDICINE OF ANY KIND, from the first commencement with the *sweet potatoes*." While he employed the mineral doctors his complaint raged with violence. When he abandoned their poisonous drugs, from that time he began to recover. Whatever might have been the salutary effect of the potatoes, of either kind, this is evident, when there were no deleterious drugs poured down his throat, his health began gradually to be restored. Had he continued to swallow medicine as before, had he have eaten all the sweet potatoes of both the Carolinas, they would not have effected a cure. "He applied to, and exhausted the skill of all the physicians of his acquaintance," but like the woman in the gospel, who had gone the same round be-

fore him, grew worse and worse. Medicine thus liberally drawn and lavishly applied from the mineral schools, must have put the strength of his constitution to the test, and put his life in jeopardy. If, at the commencement, instead of "exhausting the skill of all the physicians of his acquaintance," he had adopted his final measure, and taken "no medicine of any kind," and paid such reasonable attention to his diet, as common sense would have dictated, we have no doubts resting on our mind, that he might have escaped many pangs, pains, perils, and "insuperable" disasters to which he was unavoidably subjected in the issue, and those diverse unpleasant incidents, to the knowledge of which we should never have been introduced, but for the peculiar minute and circumstantial report of the insuperable circumstance and unpleasant effluvia, with a long et cætera beauideal of our Reformer!

From the Medical Advocate.

#### "FOUR LECTURES

On the Thomsonian Practice of Medicine, by David Tower, Physician at Avon Mineral Spring."

"We have received and read with much pleasure and profit, a pamphlet with the above title, printed at Canandaigua, N. Y. The author seems to have a very good knowledge of his subject, and gives many illustrations of the theory and practice of the Thomsonian system in a clear and candid manner. All that is needed to give complete success to the practice, is to have the people correctly informed of its safety and superior efficacy in removing disease. If a few such men would take up the cause and exert their influence and talents in its support, a great and lasting benefit would be conferred upon the people of this country, and generations yet unborn would have reason to bless them for it. Where there is a want of correct knowledge on any subject in which the people are interested, they will naturally be influenced more or less by their prejudices; and this is more particularly the case when any thing is introduced as a new discovery; as it will be viewed in the light of an innovation, because differing from

established usages; but give the people correct information, and they are perfectly capable of judging for themselves; their prejudices will give way to their reason, and they will always decide right.

We are perfectly aware that whoever becomes the advocate of the Thomsonian practice, will have to bear withal the abuse that can be heaped upon him by the licensed faculty, who are deeply interested in keeping the people in ignorance as respects the medical practice; but this ought not to deter honest men from a faithful performance of their duty, especially in a cause of such immense importance to the great human family; and they must look for a reward in the approval of their own consciences which is of more value than silver or gold, or worldly honors.

Our author in his first lecture, has treated mostly upon general principles, and confined his remarks more to give a comparative view of the two systems of medical practice, than to a correct knowledge of the practice itself. We should be glad to lay before our readers, all he says on the subject; but our humble and limited means will not permit us to gratify our wish; but we think we cannot do a more acceptable service to them than to make such extracts as are most interesting, and continue them as we may have room in our numbers.

In speaking of the influence the medical faculty have over the public mind, their high pretensions to all correct knowledge, the power they possess to make the people subservient to their interest, and their uniform opposition to all reform, he says—

“The man who should be found to possess courage sufficient to approach and presume to examine any of its materials, or investigate any of its principles, would immediately be regarded as a dangerous innovator, and expose himself to the shafts of the vindictive displeasure of its adherents. They would soon be aroused from their tranquil repose, and form themselves in warlike array. Soon, like Mount Sinai, the whole faculty would be dark with rage and a tempest of wrath, ready to burst upon the devoted head of the aggressor. The faculty would be instantly awakened from the slumbers of antiquated institutions, and girding itself

for the contest, would go forth from conquering to conquer. And, wo unto the man, wo unto his reputation, wo unto his all, on whom shall fall the scath of its blighting indignation!

“Why, it may be asked, are physicians so alarmed? Can it be that a tender regard for the good of mankind, has inspired them with such insatiable fury? Surely not—for when men are engaged in promoting that object, a more judicious and humane movement characterizes their conduct. Evidently it is their own interest for their craft, which has inspired them to contend with so much warmth against any innovation.

“And now, while all the other arts and sciences are undergoing reform and revolution for the better, it remains for you, fellow-citizens, to say whether one of the most useful and important of all arts, shall linger in the work of reform, and remain based upon the same foundation forever, merely for the gratification and aggrandizement of a few professional characters. I trust that upon this subject you will act worthy of American citizens—worthy of a free, thinking, intelligent people. To engage in the work of reform, we have every possible inducement; our government is auspicious to it; the path already shines brightly before us. A Franklin is in the clear upper skies—a Thomson will soon go to join the American constellation of philosophers and reformers and the heavens will beam with new light. Beneath its illumination let us walk the journey of life, and at its final termination let us commend our country and all the concerns of the human race, to the Divine benediction.”

On the subject of useful discoveries, and the man best qualified and most likely to make them, and the reason why not likely to be made by those who are regularly bred to the profession, he says—

“Thus we see, that the man whom the majority of mankind would select as eligible to obtain further knowledge of the nature of things would be induced not so to do, both from prejudice and interest. Besides, when a man has been regularly and extensively educated to a profession, he contracts a fondness for his favorite authors, and while pursuing his academical and professional studies, he forms many an interesting acquaintance. All these would be like so many cords which would effectually bind him to support, without any radical reform, that profession. But admit those cords were broken, still he would be deterred from it, were he not a man of invincible courage and perseverance, by the unmeasured and unlimited wrath he would incur from the institution.

“The above statement we think, is especially true with respect to the medical establishment; for no set of men, if we except the Catholic clergy, regard with so much impacable displeasure any innovation, as the physicians.—

From the preceding statements, it appears pretty evident that a man, unsophisticated in the medical profession, would be more likely to make discoveries, and to operate reforms in that art, than one who, from his youth, had been familiar with the multitude of theories and speculations on that subject. For, in making discoveries, we must work where no one has wrought before; we must investigate that which no one has investigated. And hence, the man whose mind is uncontaminated, and free from all the contradictory opinions and speculations of medical writers, would in our opinion, be far more likely to attain to originality, than any other. If it should be said that medical men have, within a few centuries past, made great improvements; to this it is replied, that there is such a thing as just reasoning from wrong data. It matters not how high the edifice is carried, or however finished its materials are, if the foundation be radically defective, the fabric must fall; and from its ruins, to be sure, it is to be hoped that some well carved stones may be selected, to assist in erecting the new one upon a better and more rational basis.

"We will consider Dr. Samuel Thomson, and his medical discoveries. But who is Dr. Thomson? He is a man born in New-England, state of New-Hampshire, and now 50 years of age. But who is Dr. Thomson? He is the illiterate *sweat doctor*, or rather, the head of all the sweat doctors! the greatest imposter in the world, and has been the means of the destruction of thousands! by the deleterious effects of steam, lobelia and capsicum! But who, it is still asked, is Dr. Thomson? He is a man possessing natural talents, second to no one engaged in the healing art, and if he has no degrees conferred upon him by any institution, NATURE has not neglected him, for she has conferred on him one degree in physic.

"Such are the contradictory opinions of the character of Dr. Thomson. Some are in the belief, and are free to express that belief, that the name of Samuel Thomson will live in all future ages, and continue to brighten in proportion to the circulation and development of the full extent of his medical discoveries. Others believe that his name will be mentioned in the succeeding age, only to be abhorred and despised. Viewing the relations in which he stands to the whole community, it is as we might expect it would be---a medical reformer may expect the mingled adulations and detractions of his fellow beings."

#### BRAN AND POTATOES ONCE MORE.

That Mr. Howard might have received some benefits from the use of the Carolina sweet potatoe, we shall not dispute. Whether it was the sweet potatoe, or the common potatoe that

did the most good in the relief obtained from a long and troublesome laxity of his bowels, we are left to the blindness of conjecture. That eating wheat bran might have had a salutary effect for the relief of that obstinate costiveness that succeeded in after years we have no disposition to call in question. Corn meal and unsifted wheat meal made into bread have long before this period of reformation, acquired a goodly reputation for their salutary influence over costive habits. We repeat an all important idea, that an excessive use of the medicine of the shops, no doubt, greatly aggravated his maladies and the entire abstinence from the use of such deleterious articles we believe contributed essentially to his final cure. We have recently seen an article which by being still more economical than even the BRAN for remedial purposes seems to augur favorably for Reformers.— "An account appears in the MONITEUR, of the discovery, by chance, of the means of making "CHEAP FLOUR" from "wheat straw." This being chopped small and passed through the mill-stones, yields a flour, coarse in appearance but agreeable to the taste, and also nutritious. Made into a wash for Pigs, or mixed with oats for a horse, 'it is said' to be an excellent article of food. The bread which is made from it, 'is said to be' much superior to the common bread eaten by the lower orders on the continent."

The quality of this kind of flour, much depends on the straw from which it is made. If the wheat grows on uplands, the straw is generally short, clean, and solid; while the low lands will produce an abundance of straw, very porous, light, and often very rusty: this kind of straw ought not to be used for bread stuff, either for man or beast; it contains but little nourishment, and is also very unhealthy.

Some physiologists suppose, that the rust found on this kind of straw contains properties similar to the *Ergot. cornutum secale*, in rye, which "is said to be" poisonous; while the clean upland straw is found to be nutritious and healthy, and may be recommended as part of the diet for *dispeptic persons*."

We have derived our information from a respectable source, but have



never made it an "article" of diet. We only give this "article" upon heresay testimony as Mr. Howard does most of the articles in his *Materia Medica*. We cannot pretend that the Indians ever use it. As to the potatoes and wheat bran Mr. Howard has tried them effectually and in so doing has not intruded on the rights and privileges of Dr. Thomson, but when the crop of sweet potatoes was failing and the very bran was so rapidly consuming by a Biped, in such a trying season,  
 Could instinct learn to speak,  
 No doubt the swinish nation  
 Would grunt and talk, and strive to check  
 This work of reformation!

*From the "Knickerbacker" of Feb.*  
**RECIPT FOR MAKING SWEET-  
 POTATOE PUDDING.**

Oh, bring me from far in southern  
 clime,  
 The sweetest potatoesthat ever grew:  
 Such apples of earth as the olden time  
 In its visions and prophecy envied  
 the new.  
 And wash them with lady-like lily  
 hands,  
 Till they look as pure as the saffron  
 light  
 That falls in the summer on fairy lands,  
 From the moon in the depth of a  
 cloudless night.  
 And let them be next of their skins be-  
 guil'd,  
 But tenderly strip off the earthly  
 vest,  
 As if you were flaying a sleeping child,  
 And were cautious of breaking its  
 gentle rest;  
 And let them be pulveriz'd next by the  
 skill  
 Of the same white hands and the  
 grater's power,  
 And a heaping up table spoon five times  
 fill  
 With the precious result of their gol-  
 den flour;  
 Of boiling hot milk add a full quart cup;  
 And next with five eggs, in a sepa-  
 rate bowl,  
 Beat five table spoonfuls of sugar up,  
 And stir them well in with the foam-  
 ing whole.

Add one table spoonful of *eau de rose*,  
 Of salt a tea spoonful: and after these  
 Of butter an egg-sized morsel: and  
 close

With a flavor of nutmeg as much as  
 you please.

Then bake it—'tis pudding—I pause at  
 the name.

To reflect on the puddings of days  
 that are past.

And the prospects of more, which as-  
 piring to fame,

And failing, I've lost to go hungry at  
 last.

**HOWARD'S PLANS.**

"The plan which I had suggested  
 "says Mr. Howard," for improving the  
 healing art, however laudable, did not  
 succeed to the utmost extent of my ex-  
 pectations; but still much valuable  
 knowledge was obtained at my expense,  
 & has been much augmented during the  
 last two years, from which, and from  
 all legal and accessible sources, I have  
 selected materials for my improved  
 system of botanic medicine, now be-  
 fore the public, in which however, "*I  
 have left Dr. Thomson's rights and  
 privileges untouched.*" Can any  
 man who has a particle of good sense,  
 who examines critically and impartial-  
 ly into plain matters of fact, touching  
 the case, can he fail to discover how  
 carefully and cautiously Mr. Howard  
 contrives to avail himself of Thomson's  
 Lobelia, Cayenne, Bayberry, no 6. and  
 his various preparations and composi-  
 tions, by mutilated recipes and pre-  
 scriptions, having after all his finesses  
 to depend on the original Thomsonian  
 basis as the foundation on which to  
 build? How then is it possible for him  
 to have the effrontery to say, "*I have  
 left Dr. Thomson's rights and privileges  
 untouched.*"

Lobelia is universally known, to be  
 a leading article in Dr. Thomson's  
 practice. His no 1. has Mr. Howard  
 left this untouched? Mr. Howard  
 would certainly be puzzled to get along  
 with his improvements without it. We  
 have his own testimony—he boldly af-  
 firms, and, reader it is the truth that  
 "the lobelia is the most valuable and ef-  
 ficient emetic known; its full merits be-  
 ing scarcely appreciated, even by those  
 who are in the habit of making frequent

use of it. It also acts as a sudorific, expectorant, and diffusible stimulant, and for the relief and even cure of asthma, and as an anti-spasmodic, its equal has not yet come to the knowledge of the world." All this he learned from Dr. Thomson. The right to use this as a medicine has been secured to Dr. Thomson by patent. Howard prescribes and recommends it with a frequency and fervency consistent with the high character he has here given it.—What has he recommended more frequently and with equal confidence? He does not go his usual round of circumlocution saying, "The leaves have been employed"—are said to be useful—"By some it is esteemed"—"possibly this might be useful." "Probably may be found beneficial." Such is the prevailing language of our reformer, on almost every article he has mentioned that is not strictly Thomsonian: But when Thomson's lobelia is the subject of his enquiries and decisions, he is positive and unequivocal. Say, reader! will you judge honestly in this case?—We have heard what Mr. Howard has said, let us listen a few moments to what Dr. Thomson has to say. "It is a truth" says he, "which cannot be disputed by any one, that all they have known about this article, and the experiments that have been made to ascertain its value, originated in my making use of it in my practice." "There is no mention made of this herb, by any author, that I have been able to find, previous to my discovering it, excepting by Linnæus, who has given a correct description of it under the name of *LOBELIA INFLATA*; but there is nothing said by him of its medical properties, it is therefore reasonable to conclude that they were not known until I made the discovery, and proved it to be useful."

When the FACULTY first made the discovery, that I used the EMETIC HERB, in my practice, they declared it to be a DEADLY POISON; and while persecuting me by every means in their power, and representing to the world that I killed my patients with *lobelia*, they were very ready to call it MY MEDICINE; and to allow it to be my discovery; but, since their ignorance of it has been exposed, and they find it is becoming an article of great value, at-

tempts are making to rob me of all the credit for causing its value to be known, and of all the profits which belong to me for the discovery. In this, some who have been instructed by me, are ready to join, for the purpose of promoting their own interest at my expense."

Enquire we now, does not Horton Howard hold a conspicuous rank among the speculating innovators? Has he left Dr. Thomson's rights untouched?

Dr. Thomson speaking of the *LOBELIA* observes, "this herb may be prepared for use in three different ways: viz. 1st the powdered leaves and pods.—2d A tincture made from the green herb with spirits. 3d The seeds reduced to a fine powder and compounded with cayenne" &c. "The powder is to be given in warm water &c." What says Howard? "The *LOBELIA* is used in powder, infusion, or tincture of the pods, or the seeds, either singly by itself or compounded with other articles."

A prescription of Dr. Thomson's directs to "Reduce the seeds of lobelia to a fine powder, of this take half an ounce, of cayenne in powder an equal quantity—put them in a gill of no 6. adding a teaspoonfull of umbil, viz: nerve powder, or powder of lady's slipper, which is so called—to be kept close stopped in a bottle for use. "This preparation is for the most violent attacks of disease, such as lock jaw, bite of a mad dog,—drowned persons, fits, spasms, and in all cases of suspended animation, when the vital spark is nearly extinct. It will go through the system like electricity, giving heat and life to every part." Now we will turn to Mr. Howard's book and to one of his patented articles. He gives it the pompous name of ANTI-SPASMODIC TINCTURE—It is made thus,

Take of Tincture of *lobelia seeds*, 1 pt.

Tincture of Cayenna, 1 pint.

Nervine Tincture [Lady's slipper,] 3 gills.

Mix and bottle for use. Dose from half a tea spoonfull to a table spoonfull, repeated according to circumstances.—This Tincture is used not only in cases of fits, spasms &c. but in all violent attacks of disease, and in cases of suspended animation from drowning, hanging, by lightning, or any other cause whatever."

Compare these compositions we find they are essentially the same. The lobelia, cayenne and umbil or nerve powder, are the very materials on which each depends, to produce the intended effect. By omitting the myrrh which is the basis of no 6. in Thomson's preparation, an important article is omitted by Howard, to save appearances. Hoping thereby that the inattentive reader might be induced to believe that he has "left Thomson's rights and privileges untouched." Can any careful reader, after a deliberate candid consultation of Thomson's "New Guide" and Howard's "improved system," feel convinced of the truth of the assertion, that he has not directly nor indirectly, intruded on the "rights and privileges" of his acknowledged instructor! The careful reader will recollect Howard's public acknowledgment that he, [Thomson] "has both by precept and by actual demonstrations, astonished us with the profound knowledge of the principles which govern his practice; and in a variety of difficult cases, in both sexes, has far exceeded our former knowledge." "His last and fourth visit has been peculiarly instructive and interesting with regard to female complaints. We most sincerely congratulate our friend on this VAST ACCESSION of useful knowledge."

Suffer us to enquire, has this "vast accession of useful knowledge," this "profound knowledge," that so "astonished" Mr. Howard, while he was a learner, and learned things that far exceeded his former knowledge, been of any material use to him in the formation of his three octavo volumes. Has he availed himself of Thomson's instructive and interesting information! In thus availing himself of these instructions, to supplant his master, can we feel satisfied that he has "left his rights and privileges untouched?"

What extensive experience has our Reformer acquired? What special confidence can be placed in a work of such high pretensions which he acknowledges was "hastily written and committed to the press, without the opportunity of maturing it by reflection."—From a review of all the circumstances of the case before us, is it not evident that Mr. Howard has taken a great pro-

portion of his "Improved system" upon trust, sheer trust! from those who were by trade *Book-makers* before him? He evaded the charge of purloining from Thomson, by testimony asserting that he was more a debtor to ELIAS SMITH. But if Smith has pilfered his work from Thomson, and Howard has copied from Smith, is not Howard plunged as deep in the ditch, as Smith is in the mire? In Mr. Howard, we behold a man who has set up for a reformer of medical practice, who has seldom been personally engaged in the use of medicine of any kind, for the removal of disease, rising up in the greatness of his infatuated imagination, superior to all his predecessors, far superior to Thomson, who he says, had "astonished him with his profound knowledge of the principles which govern his practice," and "considers him one of the greatest benefactors of mankind!"

Reader, pause! \*\*\*\*—Behold Mr. Howard at the summit of the hill of medical science! *In propria persona!*—He caps the climax of human greatness! Attention the universe! \*\*\*\*\*By platoons! \*\*\*\*\*To the right wheel! \*\*\*\*\*March!!!!!!!!!!

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## THE RECORDER.

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### COLUMBUS,

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SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1833.

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#### THE THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

This work which agreeably to our original prospectus, we had intended to publish semi-monthly, each number to contain 24 octavo pages, has been found to involve our subscribers in an unnecessary expense, in the payment of pamphlet postage. We have therefore determined for the present to publish the RECORDER tri-monthly, on a single sheet, each number containing 16 octavo pages. So that our patrons will obtain the same number of pages, monthly as before, subject only to newspaper postage.

The price to subscribers, is \$2 for so many numbers as will constitute at

the close of the year, a volume of 624 octavo pages.

The publishers wish the subscription money to be paid in advance, or at least at the reception of the third number, as they have put the work at a low price, and have been at much expense, in getting the publication into so extensive a circulation. As we do not admit of that advertising custom that furnishes support for most periodicals, but devote our pages exclusively for the extension and promotion of the Thomsonian system, we have to lean exclusively on our subscription list to sustain the work.

Every attention will be paid to forwarding by mail, to all distant subscribers in the most prompt and accommodating manner in our power.

All persons obtaining and becoming responsible for ten subscribers, shall be entitled to one set of numbers *gratis*.

Persons who may subscribe at any time within the year, can be furnished with all the numbers belonging to the volume.

Any who are careful to preserve the numbers for binding, would do well to recollect that such numbers as have miscarried, or come to any unavoidable accidental injury, will, on application, be supplied at the expense of the publishers. In relation to incidents of that kind, they determine, as far as they shall be able, to exercise a most satisfactory liberality.

All communications suited to the general nature, and design of this work, will be thankfully received, and promptly noticed.

We feel ourselves under special obligations to our friends and patrons, who having so zealously espoused the cause, have already extended the circulation of the **RECORDER** into every

state in the American Union. The daily accession of numbers to our subscription list, transcends our most sanguine anticipations.

We determine to use our utmost efforts to render the work more and more interesting.

At the publication of the last number of the first volume, we intend publishing an handsome title page, and a copious index for the whole; to assist the attentive reader to make a ready reference to any particular point, matter, or thing, that may be contained therein.

All who neglect to give notice of their discontinuance to us, directly, or indirectly, by our regular agents, in such time, that we can be informed one month, before the close of the first, or any succeeding volume, will be considered as subscribers for the next.

Correspondents will be careful to avoid the impropriety of involving the publishers in enormous post office expenses, on every trivial communication. Whatever may be intended for publication, must be forwarded post free, or, be suffered to go the way that leads to oblivion, if it should be possible, that wilful inattention to so friendly an admonition, should escape from our own recollection. We feel every disposition to be accommodating to the utmost bounds of propriety, but there will always be some carelessly transcending the limits of sound discretion. We intend no offence in this candid declaration. We have no one individual in our eye, that we intend to castigate; we speak on general principles. Men of business will know how to appreciate the importance of our remarks—with others our labor will be in vain.

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### COMMUNICATIONS.

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The following interesting communication from our much esteemed friends

of the friendly botanic society at Vienna, Trumbull county, Ohio, originally designed for the late Thomsonian convention, respectfully referred to the disposal of the secretary of general correspondence, is by him now offered to the public, not only as a tribute of respect due to that branch of the social botanic institution, but as good tidings to the whole of this society through the United States. Many other communications not seasonably received by the convention who antecipated them, were referred in the same manner—many have hitherto been jostled one side for want of room, some others are now being weighed in the scales of candid deliberation.

The Vienna Brethren, under date of Nov. 15, 1832, write thus:

“The members of this meeting would wish to state to the general convention, that there is a large increase in numbers in this section of the country of those who are friendly to botanic medicine, being convinced that there can be no necessity of an appeal to the mineral kingdom to heal diseases, that to poison a man to death, or attempt a cure by the use of poisons, under the name of medicine, is a preposterous mode of attempting to heal him. We hail the day when men shall cease to be blind to their best interests, and open their minds to rational conviction on a subject so important, indeed, we may confidently say, the most important of all earthly considerations: the possession of bodily health.

It is truly surprising that so many men of extensive erudition, having before them the experience of all the medical sages who have gone before them in all preceding generations; have not been able to ascertain the radical and general cause of disease in the human system, even if their boasted pharmacopia could not point them to a remedy. It is truly lamentable to witness the daily fall around us, of such a multitude of victims to the mineral practice! A practice at war with reason, and contrary to every trait in physical nature.

Certainly, many are shutting their eyes to the dictates of common sense, and their own best good, rejecting the kind counsel of their sincerest friends.

Like Jews and infidels, missing the peculiar and distinguishing blessings of the gospel through obstinate unbelief—accounting it preferable to die fashionably, rather than to be speedily and safely cured by an unfashionable, unpopular remedy.

‘Truth, however, must and will prevail as certainly in medicine as in all or any of the other arts or sciences. Men will, gradually, become convinced and taste the grand and salutary provisions nature’s God has provided for their benefit, until a dissenter shall not be found, nor an unbeliever exist through Reason’s vast domain. The discoveries made by Dr. Samuel Thomson cannot be considered in any other light than one of heaven’s last best gifts to men. What comfort can the wealth of the Indies confer on a human being, wreathing in the agonies of severe bodily affliction? What an angel of peace?—what a messenger of consolation? Who comes with an healing balm! with nature’s grand restorative, the safe and effectual means of relief and restoration?”

“The subscriber hereunto was necessarily absent from the meeting of the society, but was requested by an unanimous vote, to make a communication to the convention, of the general purport of what I have here written,—the minutes of the proceedings of this branch society were sent to me for that express purpose.

May unanimity, peace and harmony pervade all your deliberations, and a spirit of wisdom prevail and direct in all things appertaining to the great and good cause of humanity: the grand object of your meeting will then be measurably accomplished. May such plans be pursued, such measures matured as shall advance the dissemination of the simple and true principles of medical knowledge—such measures will be ameliorating to the condition of man, lessening his woes, mitigating his pains, bidding the monster, *disease*, to disappear; so that death may not approach us in any other form, than by accident, or by the gradual declension of nature’s organic powers, attendant on extreme old age. T. L.



*For the Thomsonian Recorder.*

MESSRS. EDITORS,

Perhaps there is no one article in Thomson's materia medica less valued in proportion to its real worth, than the *Ohio KERCUMA* (known also by the names of golden seal, yellow root, and yellow puccoon.) As a tonic, giving tone to, and strengthening the digestive apparatus, or as a corrector of the bile, I know of no article that I can place more confidence in than in that vegetable root,

Dr. Thomson, speaking of No. 4, says, "This preparation is calculated to correct the bile, and create an appetite, by restoring the digestive powers; and may be freely used both as a restorative, and to prevent disease." Again, on the same subject, he says, "This is a very important part of the system of practice, for unless the food is digested, it is impossible to keep up that heat upon which life depends."

I presume to say, there cannot be a genuine Thomsonian, who had any thing like a competent understanding of his system of practice, whose sentiments and testimony will not confirm what the Doctor has said on that subject.

It will also be admitted, that if tonics constitute such an important part of his system, it is undoubtedly an object of special consequence that we be in possession of the best that the face of soil can furnish. Depending on poor medicine, or even on a good article, if it chance to be of a bad quality, or damaged by curing, or its efficacy impaired by age, or bad management, we are brought to lean on a rotten staff or trust to a broken reed!

In dyspepsia, liver complaints, sour stomachs and the numerous chronic forms of chronic disease consequent upon indigestion; in diarrhea, summer complaints of children, and in the convalescent state of patients recovering from autumnal fevers, I would not exchange the *Ohio KERCUMA* for any one article within the compass of my knowledge.

There is another quality in this valuable root, that is not exceeded, no, nor equalled by any thing with which I have ever been acquainted. It is powerfully efficacious in the cleansing

and arresting the progress of cankerous affections of every kind, and removing all local foulness from any part. Many mothers in our country are well acquainted with its efficacy in the removal of canker or cankerous humours in and about the mouths and throats of children. In the particular forms of cankerous affections called the **THRUSH** or **aptha**, and all sorts of eroding cankerous sore mouths, it is truly an excellent medicine. It is not less efficacious in all other virulent eroding humors, or local affections that are difficult to bring into a healing condition. In all such cases the root should be made into a tea or decoction, and be used as a wash.

As *LOBELIA INFLATA* stands unrivalled as an emetic, expectorant and antispasmodic—African Cayenne unexcelled as a stimulant, imparting vigour and energy in all cases of debility, whether local or general, so the *Ohio KERCUMA* has no superior in restoring the lost tone of the digestive organs, correcting the morbid condition of the stomach and bowels, or to deterge cankerous eruptions. Thomson has said, "I have a sufficient experience, to recommend it as a very pleasant bitter, and in cases, where the food in the stomach of weak patients causes distress, a teaspoonful of the powder given in hot water, sweetened, will give immediate relief."

To me it is a matter of surprise, to find so many who pass for Thomsonians—some called practitioners, who are preparing their spice and their wine bitters, pursuing their own course of practice, without any regard to this important article. If it is not immediately handy to be come at, they are negligent in their efforts to obtain it, and many appear not to be duly apprised of its real consequence. I am credibly informed, that in some parts of Father Thomson's vineyard it is totally disregarded, or at least, if it be used at all, it is very sparingly applied.

To those who have not an opportunity of witnessing the beneficial effects of *KERCUMA*, I would now seriously invite their attention to a faithful trial of its efficacy.

To those who tell us that they have used it in such cases as I have here pre-

scribed it, without discovering any of its good effects, they must allow me to censure their sagacity and discernment, or to question promptly their skill in the application.

### CINCINNATUS.

#### TO CINCINNATUS.

We are much pleased with the communication, over this signature, and hope the author will be induced to favor us often in a similar manner. We heartily concur with him in his high estimation of the valuable medical qualities of the *Ohio KERCUMA*. We had an article on this subject prepared for the press, before his communication came to hand. He has embraced the principle ideas we had intended to advance.

In thus corroborating his testimony, we will merely say, that, when the *KERCUMA* root is in sound state of preservation, and very finely pulverised, and thoroughly mixed, with an equal bulk of pulverised loaf sugar, that it will seldom fail to relieve the bowel complaint in children, from a simple diarrhea to a confirmed cholera infantum. To adults a *large teaspoonful* is a moderate dose, to children one half, or one fourth of that quantity may be administered, according to reason, age and symptoms. It may be administered by being moistened a little, or by putting it into a small quantity of pennyroyal tea, or into a tea of Thomson's composition, which of itself is an invaluable remedy. A single dose has often succeeded to admiration, but it may and should be repeated in urgent cases, once in two or three hours, and may be continued with the utmost safety, until the disease be removed. It has often been used by women in child-bed with the happiest effect to give appetite; promote digestion, obviate debility, and enable them to use their ac-

customed food with pleasure and safety. We were not apprised, that any, called Thomsonians, were in a habit of treating this important medicine with the smallest wilful neglect or inattention. If there are any such characters belonging to the fraternity, we shall only say, that they very unhappily remind us of those in ancient times, of whom the Apostle so peremptorily declares, that they "say they are Jews and are not." However highly we may respect their persons, we must in this respect censure their practice, but shall not take the liberty to impugn their motives, until all the facts may be circumstantially ascertained.

### OBITUARY NOTICE.

*"Stay, passenger, why dost thou go so fast?"*

*Read, if thou canst, whom envious death has plac'd*

*Within this monument: SHAKESPEARE.—*

Died suddenly in this town, on Friday the 22nd ultimo, after a lingering tormenting decline of nine years, that scandalous enemy of all righteousness, that child of the Devil, whose name has long been a disgrace to our country, who was born a brat of the LAW family, christened "*An act to incorporate medical societies, for the purpose of regulating the practice of physic and surgery, in Ohio.*" It lived unbeloved, and died unlamented by any, except a few of its particular favorites, and near kin. As it never had a *human SOUL*, its spirit like that of a beast, has gone *downwards!* And notwithstanding the venerable Dr. Clark intimated some shadow of expectations, that even brutes may possibly rise again, yet the friends of the deceased, are cheerless of the hope of the resurrection of the dead. All the magicians of Egypt; all the witches of Endor, all the regular faculty in Ohio, with senator Duncan to lead the van, and face the front of battle, will never be able to effect its resurrection. *It has gone to its long home!!!!!!*

## LETTERS RECEIVED.

Maryland, 2d month 16th 1833.

Dear Friend:—We all know very well, (that is the friends in this part of the world,) who this Dr. Howard is, we knew him before he became a doctor. He was then, HORTON HOWARD, a preacher among us—those among us who had embraced the medical system of Samuel Thomson, finding that HOWARD had set up an independent standard determined to investigate his pretensions, and if we should ultimately find that his motives were any thing, other, than a disinterested wish to increase the sum of human happiness, the circumstance of his being a member of our society, should have no influence to shelter him from our just indignation. But before we proceeded to condemn him, it was of course that to be necessary to bring them face to face. But as it would be impracticable to effect a personal interview, we concluded, as the only alternative, to become subscribers for the two works now being published in your metropolis, viz: The THOMSONIAN RECORDER, and the *Eclectic and Medical Botanist*. Several numbers of each have already come to hand, and although it is not my intention to proceed to a final decision, I am ready to acknowledge, that so far, I have not met with any thing in the *Eclectic*, having the least tendency to remove my first impression that “there is something rotten at the core in Denmark!” Admit for a moment, that THOMSON, without just cause, withdrew the agency from H. Howard, is that any reason why the latter should arrogate to himself the privilege; plagiary like, to rob Thomson of the honor of having established a system, which is destined to produce a new era in the healing art? I trust there is yet remaining too much justice, too much high minded honorable feeling amongst men, to give countenance to such barefaced ingratitude.—The day is not far distant, when the curtain of oblivion will shroud all the mighty works of Horton Howard, while the system of Samuel Thomson will continue to spread and shine with increasing effulgence, until with equato-

rial embrace it, will take in the whole human race.

You may be ready to charge me with extravagance—I rebut the imputation. The system is not now, new to me, no. I have reflected on it nearly three years. It is bottomed on the eternal laws of nature and truth; and, although I shall not live to see it, nor will Thomson himself, the day must come, when it will be pronounced by the united voice of mankind as one of the “greatest benefactors of the human race.” The proceedings of the convention came duly to hand, we considered it the most interesting document we ever met with. How we would have rejoiced to have been present.

Yours respectfully &c.

Harrisburg Ind. Feb. 1 4th. 1833.

GENTLEMEN;—

Having recently understood that you are publishing a paper entitled the THOMSONIAN RECORDER, the design of which is to disseminate correct and useful information, among those more especially, who are friendly to the Thomsonian botanic system of medicine. Feeling a peculiar desire, for the promotion of its great object, I have been induced to request you to add my name to the list of subscribers from the commencement. Although the knowledge of this system is yet in its infancy with us, and has to contend with that opposition, which has marked its progress in every place, from its earliest promulgation, yet it has many firm friends, and there are many more who lack only correct information, to become so. I wish well to the good work, and hope the time is not far distant, when prejudice, tradition, opposition and ignorance will give way to sound reason and common sense.

Yours respectfully,

W. H. T.

A correspondent at Murfreesborough under date of Jan. 7, 1833, observes.

“I have no special news at this time except briefly to state a case of a young man in Williamson County, he was attended by a Steam Doctor for several days.—He was thought to be on the mend.—However, it so turned out the

Steam Doctor was dismissed, and one of the regular Faculty was called in.—The young man grew worse and continued to get worse and worse, until he died! Before his decease his gums were so eat or rotted away, no doubt, by the medicine given, that the blood ran out of his mouth in large quantities.

If the Steam Doctor had placed him in that situation, what a noise it would have produced! What a cry of murder! murder!! would have been raised against him! So unreasonable are the prejudices of an unenlightened multitude."

### A "NEW VIEW."

"See how these apples swim together."

Among the many "new views" with which some feed their fancy, and beguile their leisure hours, we notice the following *revue* of the Editor of the Eclectic. "To SAMUEL THOMSON and HORTON HOWARD, are the world indebted for an arrangement and combination of those scattered, and almost forgotten principles of physiology, upon which a safe and certain practice of medicine can alone be erected. They have, each in his [their] own peculiar manner pointed out the sources of life, its support and preservation, the causes of disease and its most common sequence, death—and what to them must be an unspeakable satisfaction, is, that they both have lived to see the extraordinary success of their individual exertions. They have been permitted to witness the triumph of their medical principles over prejudice and envy, obloquy and persecution, after having been subjected to the most trying ordeals of human ingenuity." We have not time to extend our quotations any farther. Mr. Little strives in vain to yoke his father's destiny with that of Dr. Thomson. Pray who can tell how long Howardism has been afloat! What Howardite has been in dungeons and chains for truth's sake! When and where subjected to arrest, indictment, the charge of murder for administering Howardine medicine to the sick! When and where the "extraordinary success" of any who have bought his rights and practiced accordingly? No

flourishing, Mr. Little, plain simple truth has more weight on public opinion than volumes of this frothy spouting. Howard's "triumph" appears to be more extraordinary in the Eclectic, than in all the world beside.

### GREAT MORTALITY.

The town of Bushire, in China, which some months since contained twenty thousand inhabitants, is said now to contain only two thousand; the remainder having been swept off by Cholera.

The following persons are authorized and requested to act as Agents for the RECORDER.

### OHIO.

Robert Hewes, *Hamilton*.  
 John Odell & Dr. Tibbits, *Cincinnati*.  
 Dr. S. C. Lomis, *Eden Seneca co*.  
 Joel Thomson, *Shalersville Portage co*.  
 Dr. I. P. Tibbits, *Warren Jefferson co*.  
 R. H. Goe, *Mansfield*.  
 Dr. Wm. Hart, *Dayton*.  
 Dr. E. Somers, *Brunswick Medina co*.  
 A. Critchfield, *Carthage Licking co*.  
 Dr. Sheward *Zanesville*.  
 Dr. C. B. Porter *Lancaster*.  
 Dr. David Jordan *Dayton*.  
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# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HERSEY, *Senior Editor.*

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## COPIOUS EXTRACT,

FROM AN

*Introductory lecture on anatomy, by Mr. Arbernethy, at St. Bartholomew's hospital.*

It is the observation of a late writer, that if any person who had never seen a ship, or a palace, were to be shown the separate parts of either, and to have their uses well and accurately described to him, yet he would form but a very imperfect idea either of the ship or of the palace. Now, to obviate such an effect as I have alluded to, anatomists have been in the habit of devoting a few introductory lectures to taking a general survey of the body—of the whole body, before they proceed to the particular consideration of its parts; and I shall, on the present occasion, imagine the parts of the body to be separately and completely formed; and I shall, in idea, put them together, hoping by this means to show you their mutual connexions and dependencies.

To those gentlemen who are already acquainted with anatomy, such an account will not be of much utility, and yet there is something in it: it is pleasing to observe the effects resulting from the action of many parts, and the harmony that is manifested among them in the performance of their several offices; and it also appears most proper thus to introduce the subject of the following lectures:—First, then, we may consider the bones, which are to be regarded as the walls of the building, and the pillars which support and sustain all the other parts. The body is composed of a pile of bones such as these, (pointing to a skeleton by his side,) the extremities of which are variously formed, and evidently fitted to admit of a variety of motions; but the surface of bones being rough, they are not calculated to slide on one another, as is necessary in the performance of our several motions, and therefore, the articulating surfaces are covered with a very smoothly-polished substance cal-

led cartilage or gristle; these surfaces are continually lubricated by a very slippery mucilaginous fluid named synovia, called vulgarly joint oil; and the escape of this fluid from the joint is prevented by a membrane-like band, called capsular ligament, and the bones are also firmly fixed together at their articulations by strong bands of unyielding ligament—bands so arranged as freely to permit all those motions which the joint is constructed to allow of, and so as to prevent any other. So great is the strength of these ligaments, that on the application of a force tending to separate the bones from them, the bones will sometimes break, and the ligaments remain entire. Now, such is the mechanism of a joint, by which we possess equal security and facility of motion. Nature has moreover wisely endowed those parts with so small a degree of sensibility, that notwithstanding the violent pressure and rapid motions which their offices oblige them to sustain and undergo, we are really scarcely sensible of the part at which such motion is effected. Thus we see a machine excellently calculated to admit of a variety of motions; but the bones are incapable of moving themselves, and hence arises the necessity of moving powers, or muscles: those consist of soft fibres, which have the power of shortening themselves with great force; and indeed, it is wonderful that a bundle of such fibres, which would be torn asunder in the dead body by the weight of a few ounces appended to it, shall, in a living state, be capable of lifting up and sustaining more than one hundred pounds. The manner in which this contraction is produced, has been eagerly sought for by physiologists: The accounts of all those who formerly attempted to solve the phenomenon are reducible to one principle: they supposed the fibres were tubes into which a fluid was projected, so as that, on the extension of the tube, its length became shortened; but such conjectures are at

once refuted by considering that the power impelling the fluid must be very great to produce so forcible a contraction, and this impelling power can nowhere be discovered. This hypothesis was formed at a time when the laws and principles of mechanics were supposed to be adequate to account for all the phenomena of nature, and before the effect produced by electricity and magnetism was regarded with that accurate and extensive observation which it has since obtained. Whether we examine an animate body, or those which are inanimate, we observe the material—we observe that it is sometimes gradually changing its form and its quality, while at other times we perceive it moving with surprising rapidity and force, and the primary cause of motion of matter is in every instance equally difficult of scrutiny. We know nothing of matter but the properties which the different species of it possess. Of that matter which, for the most part, presents itself to our notice which is cognizable to the eye and touch, we know that it has a property called by Sir Isaac Newton “inertness”—an indisposition to move unless impelled to motion, and a disposition to continue in motion unless retarded. But there are other kinds of subtle matter in the nerves, such, for instance, as electricity and magnetism, the motion of which does not seem to be regulated by the same laws, and which are not in general cognizable to the eye or touch, but of the existence of which reason furnishes us with the most indisputable testimony. Now these kinds of subtle matter, we know, frequently act upon and put in motion that which is gross and inert; we see magnetism move very ponderous pieces of iron, and electricity displace and dis sever the most stable substances which oppose its passage. The late experiments of Sir Humphrey Davy have thrown much light on this subject: he has shown that it is electricity, working silently and slowly, which produces all the alterations we perceive in the composition of surrounding bodies; and he has also found additional reasons for believing that it can likewise produce sudden and forcible motions in the largest masses of matter; that it is electricity acting

in, on, or over the surface of the earth, which causes the whirlwind, the water-spout, and those concussions of the air called thunder; that it is electricity which, with its sharp and sulphurous blast, fells the venerable and “gnarled oak,” and destroys our most stately edifices; that it is electricity, acting beneath the surface of the earth, which causes the still more tremendous concussions, earthquakes, and which throws up subterraneous matter from volcanoes! Now, are we not warranted to believe that some chemical agent produces the effect on organized bodies which we find continually taking place elsewhere? Is it not admissible to believe that a similar agent produces the sudden and forcible motion of matter which forms the striking characteristic of living beings? Do we indeed depart from the laws of reason, in supposing that electricity, or some corresponding principle, is the prime moving cause of vital action, without which, as Mr. Hunter has indisputably shown, it is impossible to account for the functions and processes of life? Reflecting modern physiologists do not, I believe, entertain a doubt that a certain species of matter pervades living bodies, and is the cause of motion and of the phenomena observed in them. It is not likely that the visible fabric of a muscle (the main flesh and fibres of which are readily lacerable, even in the living body, when they are in a state of inaction—and which have all the properties belonging to common matter) should have that wonderful one superadded, of contracting with that celerity and force which characterizes the animal action. I cannot lay before you, at present, all the physiological arguments which have been adduced by many (I may say, by most) to lead to the belief that it is the effect of a distinct species of matter; they are so numerous and cogent as to enforce (and I may say, establish) the opinion. Altho’ many sensible and reflecting men, from the earliest ages, have thought on the subject as we now do, yet the credit of fairly, boldly, and clearly teaching this doctrine is due to the late Mr. Hunter, whose opinion on this subject has gradually gained ground, and become generally established.

It appears that in an animal body,

according to the number of muscular fibres, so is the force which is connected with it, or which the muscles possess; but so great a number of fibres could not be fixed to one point of the bone destined to be moved, and nature has contrived to attach them to a great cord, called a sinew or tendon, which is the same as if they were all attached to the bone: thus, if I were desirous of moving a very heavy table, and I had one hundred men to effect my purpose, I would not say, "Take hold of the table," because there would be no room; but I would tie a strong cord around the table, so that each should pull at the cord, and thus a similar effect would be produced. You will find that there are numerous contrivances in the body for fixing a great number of fibres, so as to operate on one tendon. The sinews possess great strength, and great force is required to rupture them, and yet they will sooner tear than the acting muscular fibres, which act with prodigious force, and always in proportion to the cause requiring its exertion. It is interesting to reflect on this circumstance—the bones are sufficiently strong for all the purposes of life; the ligaments which tie them together, and the sinews by which they are moved, are still stronger, and yet the muscular fibres are less likely to be torn by violence than either. We shall find that if any part of our body be destroyed, it is never perfectly reproduced; but bones can be united by cartilage and ligament, each capable of supplying the place of the destroyed part; but the muscular fibres are less capable of regeneration. The intention of nature seems to be the preservation of the more important part of these laws. The matters which compose our body are sufficiently strong for all the purposes of life, and yet the acting parts are still stronger, and are capable, under circumstances of great exertion, of rending asunder the bones and ligaments which compose the human frame.

You have now, then, surveyed the machine as adapted for motion; it appears calculated for its performance; but how, you will ask, are these parts originally formed, or how do they continually exist, for the matter of which they are all composed is not of a perma-

nent nature, but continually tending to its own dissolution? How, then, when the old parts batter and decay, are new ones supplied? It is from the blood the body is nourished—all the nutritious principles are contained in this vital fluid, and here arises the necessity for vessels to distribute this fluid to every part of the body. The blood is propelled by the heart, in tubes called arteries, to every part, from whence it is returned through other tubes called veins. The heart is a hollow muscle, in which quality it receives the returning blood, and by its contraction returns it again to every part of the body for nourishment; thus maintaining a circulating course, which was first discovered by Dr. Harvey. We have considered the materials of a body as prone to decay; and when they have undergone such an exchange, we may next inquire what becomes of them. We shall find they are removed by a set of very fine vessels, which exist in great numbers in every part, although, from their minuteness and transparency, they are difficult to demonstrate. If from the blood the body is nourished, from whence, you ask, is the blood supplied? It is formed chiefly from our food; and hence arises the necessity of organs capable of conveying our food into blood, and assimilating it to the nature of our body. The alimentary regions are allowed to animals for this purpose; the use of which is to have the power of converting vegetable and animal food, and apparently very dissimilar into a substance called chyle, which resembles blood very much in its nature, but differing in its colour, it being like that of milk; chyle, thus formed, derived from the food, is conveyed into the veins, where it soon acquires substances, into the same kind of fluid, the red colour and other properties of blood. As, however, many useless, and probably some unsalutary particles of matter are taken into the blood with the chyle, the absorbing vessels are continually removing the old matters of our body, and transferring them into the blood vessels. We may next inquire, how such useless and noxious matter is separated from the same? We know it is by the urine, by perspiration, and from the lungs, but to explain this cir-

circumstance, it is necessary that we should take a more minute and accurate survey of the circulation. We know that the body is nourished from the blood, and various fluids prepared from it for purposes essential to the animal economy; as the saliva, tears, and gall. We find that the blood flows with great rapidity through the larger vessels; but on its arrival at the smaller ones the velocity is checked, owing to circumstances which will hereafter be explained to you. Now, the slow course of blood in the small vessels is probably favorable to the preparation of the nutritive materials for the repair and growth of the body, and also to the dissimilar liquors and substances which are said to be separated or secreted from it, from whence, by its rapid course in the larger vessels, the blood is conveyed pure and unadulterated to all the parts of the body for their nourishment. Suppose, then, the blood to be slowly moving in the minute arteries from the small tubes, the proceeding which separates the different fluids from the secreted blood takes effect, while the minute arteries containing the blood from whence the separation had been made, become reflected towards the heart, and transferred into a vein, through which it returns the remaining blood. But as, from the languid motion of the blood in small vessels, some change of its quality takes place, (and it is certain that it has lost its colour and acquires a dark purple hue,) some change appears necessary to fit it again for the nourishment and support of the body; now, for this purpose it is propelled from the heart by the heart, through the lungs, where much carbonaceous matter is thrown off from it, and it becomes exposed to the action of the atmosphere, the medium of the containing vessels alone intervening; great changes are, by these means, produced, for it returns from the lungs to the heart again, of a bright scarlet colour, and fit to be distributed for the support of every part of the body.

Now all these parts which I have mentioned, are enveloped in an elastic and spongy substance; the bones, the muscles, the blood-vessels, and the bowels, are all connected by a cellular substance, which, from its elasticity,

yields to the performance of the several motions; and when they cease, by its elasticity it returns the parts to their former situation. In some of the cells of this substance, the fat is deposited, which seems to be a very nutritive matter; and wherever nutritious particles abound, they are laid up in these cells as in a store-house, from which, when wanted, they can be drawn.—These cellular substances being condensed on the surface of the body into a compact state, form the skin, which serves to defend the other parts, and to give a smoothness and regularity to the surface of the body.

Now hitherto I have been describing a body as adapted for motion and capable of existence, but without sense or feeling, and we have yet to inquire by what means we obtain a knowledge of the surrounding objects, and are able to direct the various motions of our bodies. The possession of this faculty is owing to the brain and nerves. The brain is a substance situated in the bony cavity of the skull, and the nerves, which are of a fibrous texture, appear like the continuation of the same substance through every part of the body. It is by means of the nerves that intimation is received of the property of surrounding bodies, which conveys its will to the muscles. Thus, if I will to take up this book, the determination is conveyed by the nerves of my arm to the muscles, which immediately perform it—it is moved—I ascertain its shape and other properties, the intimations of which are conveyed by the nerves to the brain; for if the nerves of my arm were cut or tied, the muscles, although they would still possess the power of motion, I could not by my will influence them to act; or if my finger was applied to the book by another person, the nerves would convey no intimation to my brain by which I could distinguish its quality. Now, the manner in which sensation is produced in the brain from every part of the body, and in which volition is conveyed to the muscles by means of the nerves, can be but little known. Many ingenious men have in vain attempted to explain it. All they have been able to show is, that an object causing a



sensation, produces an impression in a part of a nerve remote from the brain, which is propagated by the nerve to that organ. It is, however, a discovery in modern physiology, that sensation is not produced merely in consequence of the impression being made on the nerves, but that action in the nerve must be excited, which action is propagated along the fluid; and this discovery explains why we very often experience every sensation from infancy, when we are very often unaffected by impulses that are most forcible; for it is not the impulse, but the action which is excited which is propagated to the brain, and occasions feeling.

In accounting for sensation, we are compelled to believe that there exists in the muscles as in the nerves, as well in the nerves as in the muscles; a subtle matter, which acts spontaneously whenever excited by external impressions or internal volition. It does not appear that there is a substantial difference in the construction of the nerves themselves, for, when injured, they all alike convey the same painful sensation. Therefore, why we see so well, appears to arise from the circumstance that the nerve is protected from the touch of grosser bodies, and light has only access to it, and induces the action which occasions us to see places from which it has emanated, or been reflected. In like manner the auditory nerve is so sheltered from the touch of gross matter; but it is accessible to the vibration produced by sound, which excites the action which gives us hearing. All that is effected in any instance, is the excitement and propagation of motion to the brain; & although it is probable that the internal organization of the brain contributes to produce varieties of feelings and affections, yet such varieties can only be attributed to the wonderful properties of which the parts are composed. And this is a subject that I think cannot fail to astonish every reflecting person.—As, however, the functions of the nervous system form a very curious and interesting subject, allow me to consider them a little more extensively. There is a power of accommodation in the

nerves to the circumstances in which they are placed. A man, for instance, confined in a dark place, shall receive an impression adequate to produce sight from a very small quantity of light, and his eye will be injured by the common daylight; the reverse of this is equally true: a person may remain in a strong light, and his eye become so inured to it, that the ordinary quantity shall fail to produce a proper impression; or a person who has been long in still and silent places shall hear the slightest sound which shall be imperceptible to another whose ears were accustomed to the force of vibrations made by loudly-sounding bodies. Habit, also, has some effect in contributing to this power of accommodation of the nerves to the circumstances in which they are placed. A ring, when first worn on the finger, is constantly felt and attended to; but, afterwards, the nerves cease to act, from being accustomed to the pressure; they also act so as to excite feeling and attention on its removal. These powers of accommodation do not belong to particular senses, but have a more general influence: a person living a luxurious life, who shuns every sensation that gives him the least uneasiness, who attends merely to the gratification of his pleasures, renders his nervous system in general too sensible;—he shrinks from the cold winds, he is startled by a little noise, and every rough impression, which would not disquiet another, owing to his ill-judged indulgence, distresses him. Now let us mark the contrast in a hearty seaman who has endured the inclemencies of the weather, and has sustained fatigue and pain: he feels the wind blow, and hears the cannon thunder, but neither affects him much; and from being inured to sensations at first painful, he is at last unaffected even by those impressions which would hurt a man living in a medium between the two extremes.

The nervous system not only serves to inform us of the properties of surrounding objects by means of the organs of sense, but also to guard us against the application of any thing hurtful, as monitors teaching us to avoid it. Thus pain is very useful to us; but although



from the nerves we occasionally suffer pain, yet, in general, they are the source of pleasure by means of our senses. Let us suppose an animal in a state of nature and health. Is not his eye delighted by beautiful prospects, and his ear charmed with melody—is he not regaled by the odours of herbs and plants? Does not his every want contribute to his gratification!—the want of nourishment occasions hunger—fatigue requires rest; and where are there greater animal pleasures than in the gratification of such wants? Such is the state of an animal formed for enjoyment; but to this corporeal state, man has added and affixed reason, which ought to furnish him with the greatest source of pleasure, if the intention of nature were not perverted. Finding gratification proceed from the satisfaction of his wants, he has absurdly increased their number in order to increase his enjoyment. For all natural wants nature has amply provided; but these fictitious wants cannot be gratified, and therefore he has made to himself a source of disquiet and discontent.

There is another subject on which I wish for a few minutes to engage your attention, as I think it cannot fail to interest even those who have not been much engaged in physiological researches—I mean the connexion of animal motion with sensation. We naturally are influenced in our reason by our feelings; and, knowing that, we shrink from whatever gives us pain; we infer that the involuntary emotion of animals arising from the same cause; yet, if the subject be attentively considered, I have no doubt that this opinion will be found erroneous. If a man's leg be amputated, and stimulated some hours afterwards by electricity, excited in the manner which Volta first explained, a rapid motion of the muscles will take place; but can we believe that this limb has sensation, or could we persuade the person from whose body it has been removed to be of that opinion? Surely not, for he will feel no pain when the limb is excited after it; on the contrary, he may feel pain when it is not—nay, people actually feel pains in their limbs—pain and sensation in their limbs when they are destroyed by putrefaction, which shows, if I may so

express it, the totality of the essential principle remaining in the brain. If any thing be proved in physiology, it is that the essential principle is connected with the brain, yet motion takes place in parts connected with that organ, even vegetables, and the lower kind of animals, possess powers of motion, but it requires that the mind should be in some degree prejudiced before we can believe such motion to be the result of feeling! Assuredly, motion does not necessarily imply sensation; we see rapid and powerful motion of matter taking place around us, in cases where no physiologists ever dreamt that they arose in consequence of sensation.

Now my time does not allow me to recite all the arguments in proof of this opinion, that the action of animals takes place independently of sensation; but this, I believe, will be found to be clear in this mysterious subject, that the faculty of sensation lies in the brain of man, and that the motions arising in the nerves, in consequence of impressions made on them, are propagated to the brain, and give us all that knowledge we possess of surrounding bodies; whence other motions, excited by volition, are continued in the contrary direction through the nerves, and enable us to regulate the action of our muscles so as to operate upon the objects which surround us.

The conclusion to be drawn from this summary survey of the animal powers is interesting; for we perceive so exact a correspondence between those opinions which result from physiological research, and those which arise so naturally from the suggestions of reason, that some persons have considered them as innate and intuitive. Most reflecting persons have, in all ages of the world, believed, what is indeed natural to believe, and what physiology also teaches us, that there exists in the human body an assemblage of organs formed of common and inert matter, such as we see any where—a principle of life and action—an essential and rational property all connected, and yet each apparently distinct from the other.

Thus, gentlemen, have I, for the reason stated in the beginning, endeavoured to present you with an imperfect sketch of the structure of the hu-

man body. Custom has made introductory lectures in some degree necessary, and I know not how I could better employ the time allotted to this purpose.

From the Medical Advocate.

#### "FOUR LECTURES.

*On the Thomsonian practice of Medicine, by DAVID POWER, Physician at Avon Mineral Spring."*

"It has often been said, that "Doctor Thomson is an impostor." Let us proceed and examine the means he has had, from the commencement of his medical career until now, of imposing on the people. Let us bring him before us when but a child, with his parents. At this time they were inhabitants of a new country, and of course his advantages for an early education were very limited. But this privation of schooling was perhaps compensated to him, for his situation afforded him an opportunity to pursue that study for which nature seems to have designed him. There his mind was early expanded—not by a studious attachment to books, or by moving in the fashionable circles of society, but by a studious and youthful attachment to the investigation of the vegetable kingdom. It appears he very early united all his amusements and recreations with some useful and curious experiment. He was, it seems, an ardent lover of knowledge from his very infancy; but he chose to obtain it rather by searching nature, without any medium or rules prescribed by others, than to resort to books. He resided in a place where nature had scattered with a wasteful hand, all those objects which are calculated to excite the admiration and exertions of an ingenious mind.

"It was in this romantic retreat that the mind of young Thomson first received that eager curiosity to enquire into the uses of things, which perhaps laid the foundation of his after discoveries. In this retreat he was a stranger to all those insidious designs which human nature is ever wont to instigate in older and more propitious parts of the country. Here his mind was not contaminated with false notions in any of the sciences, or with undue prejudices for any established institutions,

by an acquaintance with the writings of any sectarian zealot. There he seems to have taken nature alone for his guide and instructor; and he was as free to explore its works as it had been beneficial to him, in both giving to his mind a tact favorable for enquiring, and in placing such a variety of objects around him, which seemed to invite his investigation. He continued to follow with unremitted zeal, a course of critical investigation, until he had arrived to years of manhood: nor indeed did his enquiries stop here—for he entered upon those scenes of human life, in which men generally find it for their interest to reduce to practice all the important knowledge they have before known in theory. It was so with Thomson; what he had known before in theory, and what had served him for amusement, now he knew with an experimental certainty, and it served him in saving human life.

"It was not until sometime after Dr. Thomson had a family, that he thought seriously about giving himself to the practice of medicine; for he informs us in his narrative, that he had a physician living in one of his houses for some time after his marriage, whom he frequently employed in his own family; and it was after this and other medical gentlemen had exhausted their skill to no good effect, in endeavors to remove some diseases in his own family, that Thomson attempted his success in the healing art. He had before this time, however, collected a great many facts respecting remedies in disease. In those cases which we have mentioned, he exercised his best judgment, both in determining what the disease was, and in making a selection in remedies, and his exertions were attended with perfect success.

"This success was regarded by many, and even by himself, as a casual occurrence; but he found, however, by pursuing a similar mode of treatment in many other cases, he met with similar success. Thus, by following that course which his own reason and judgment suggested to him to be proper, he was taught, to a demonstrative certainty, the great principle of life and motion in animal bodies—and before he was actually sensible of it, he had made

a great discovery in the healing art; and ere he was aware, he found himself altogether engaged in the practice of medicine.

"Dr. Thomson knew the nature of the medicines he administered, and he knew too, the effects they produced, and he saw they were salutary; and from this knowledge of medicine and of its effects, he was led to a clear apprehension of the first moving cause of animal life."

"Fellow-citizens, Dr. Thomson has made discoveries in the healing art—great and important discoveries. He has conferred substantial benefit upon man, and man will always remember him. He has in simplicity and honesty, and very frequently without any compensation, been doing his fellow creatures good. He has been successful in removing disease of the most obstinate kind, to the truth of which multitudes can with the greatest cheerfulness bear witness; and most of those engaged in the Thomsonian practice of medicine, have been rescued from the very brink of the grave by its efficacy, and sent back into the world to promulgate its utility. Such is the fact respecting the writer of this discourse; and this success, fellow-citizens, with which the Thomsonian system has been crowned, has brought the unmingled wrath of the whole faculty, down upon Thomson and his mode of practice. It is this, which has alarmed them; and it is this which has made our public papers teem with so many false, insidious reports, respecting steam and the steam practice.

"It may with truth be said, that Dr. Thomson has had every thing to encounter, since he commenced his medical career. The statement of a few facts will render the truth of the preceding sentence sufficiently evident.—In the first place, he was not a man possessing refined education, which is necessary to make a man popular among the more influential part of community. It is a truth, that real merit is not the first qualification to give a man influence among mankind. Dr. Thomson was plain and undisguised in all his manners and movements. Had he assumed more of that pomp and tinsel which characterizes many popular im-

posters, he would undoubtedly have executed his work with much less difficulty. But he first commenced the practice of medicine in his own family and neighborhood, without making any high pretensions to superior knowledge.

"But he found in very truth, that his practice was a great improvement, and he knew by experience that he could relieve the sufferings of his fellow beings; and he moved forward, to do what was in his power to do, as every philanthropist would. But his success in practice was met with the utmost exertion of the faculty for his destruction; & hence he had the whole weight of their influence to contend with. When we remember that Dr. Thomson, some thirty or forty years ago, was what is termed "an illiterate man," traversing the forests of New-England to ascertain the nature and efficacy of vegetables as medicine; when we remember all the persecution and opposition he has received from regular bred physicians and their numerous adherents—and when we remember also, that, notwithstanding all those formidable barriers which have been thrown in the way of his progress, not only by doctors, but by the prejudices of the people and the treachery of confidentials; he has within these United States more than one million of people *disposed to judge favorably of his manner of curing disease*. With these facts in view, we shall be induced to believe, that either Dr. Thomson is a man of very uncommon talents, or that his system has uncommon merits.

"A few remarks on Dr. Thomson's Theory of Disease, shall close this discourse. He contends that all diseases have one cause, and that cause is, *a want of a proper portion of warmth in the system, to produce an equal and healthful action in all its parts.*"

"The truth, fellow-citizens, concerning any subject, is important, and when known, is simple and easy to be understood; but false theory, conjecture, and technical terms, having no place in the nature of things, are difficult to understand. The creatures of the imagination, and not the creatures of God, appear dark and intricate; and when we imagine we see an hundred distinct objects, where we in reality see only

one, exhibited in various points of light, with all its diversified appearances—if we should let such a view of things have a practical influence, we should undoubtedly be led into gross error. Accurate discrimination is of vital importance in discovering truth, especially in the science of medicine. But who does not know how endless are the theories of disease, introduced into the world by the great leaders in physic?—It is a plain fact, fellow-citizens, that opinions the most contradictory, concerning the causes and remedies of disease, are advocated by physicians, from the most learned and profound authors, down to the humblest practitioners.—Does this look, fellow-citizens, as tho' the healing art, according to the present established institutions, is based upon as rational and immovable a foundation, as that on which Newton has placed natural philosophy? Or, does it not appear that physicians have arrived at no general principles in physic, which are sufficiently clear to produce uniformity among themselves? They certainly have not. With all their high pretensions then, to knowledge, are they entitled to any other appellation than that of *Quacks*?

“But shall we despair, fellow-citizens, of ever obtaining any general remedies of disease, or a knowledge of what constitutes motion and life in animal bodies, sufficient to direct us with more certainty in the application of medicine? We ought surely never despair of obtaining more accurate knowledge on both of these subjects. We may receive it as a self-evident truth, the God of Nature has provided better means for curing disease than those used by regular physicians. If he has not, an imputation of malevolence might be brought to bear upon his character: and if he has provided better means to cure disease, why is not Dr. Thomson as likely to obtain a knowledge of them as any other man? He was born in a country which has produced as great men as the world ever knew, and he has pursued that manner of life which good reason, in our opinion, dictated, in order to render a man eligible to obtain such knowledge. He comes forth to the world laboring

under every embarrassment, which every thing else but a good cause and a good conscience could create, affirming that he has made the desired discovery—and he demonstrates the truth of his affirmation by practice, the sure test of all theory.

“Dr. Thomson's discoveries have a tendency to simplify the theory and practice of medicine—to have all the great discoveries in that branch of knowledge in which they were made.—Discoveries in other sciences have taught the world that there is but one object, where mankind had before imagined there were thousands. Doctor Thomson, by discovering that all diseases have one cause, and that they differ in degree and location only, has, in our opinion, shown clearly that the endless distinctions and names given to diseases, are unlearned and unphilosophical. He has taught that there is but one object, where others had imagined there were multitudes. By seeing the connection in things, he learned that truth tended to simplify, but falsehood to complicate theory. It is, fellow-citizens, a well known fact, that all the discoveries in the arts have had a great influence to simplify, while some have come forward to the world laying claim to the high honor of discoveries, but possessing no merit, except what may be claimed by false speculation and technical terms.

“Although Dr. Thomson has asserted, and pretty clearly proved, that all diseases arise in consequence of cold or a loss of heat in the system, still he does not say but that the heat may escape the body by various causes. But he contends, that no cause can produce disease until it has diminished the heat in the system. Dr. Thomson maintains, that heat is animal life, or the cause of it. Learned doctors are not agreed whether it is heat or cold, or either of them.

“Dr. Thomson's views of diseases and practice of medicine is conformable to this sentiment, that one man has but one life, and that in disease there is a sympathy in every part of the system. Learned doctors' views of diseases and practice of medicine, would seem to indicate that there were sev-



eral lives in one man, each of which exists independent of the other, and that in disease there is no sympathy between the parts of the system.

"Dr. Thomson administers medicine upon a regular system. Learned doctors have no system at all. Dr. Thomson's theory shows that the material world is kept in motion by one agent, and that there is a mighty connection between all the works of God. Learned doctors tell us nothing about the first moving cause."

### QUACKERY EXPOSED.

The following article is extracted from a very interesting communication made to the *Editors of the LONDON GAZETTE of HEALTH*. It contains several important suggestions, worthy of the strictest attention of every reader who feels any interest in the welfare of mankind. We think it contains matter worthy the special, candid and solemn consideration of that class of men who have been commonly denominated **REGULAR PHYSICIANS**. An enlightened community are becoming weary of the haughty overhearing pretensions, of a monopolizing faculty. Their scientific arrogance no longer dazzles the eyes of any, but a credulous few, whom folly or interest leads along the old beaten track of stale and contemptible superstition. The shackles of ignorance are falling off, and mental darkness receding rapidly before the resistless light of simple truth. Literary information in our highly favored country is working its way into the dwellings of honest industry. A monopolizing few, will not long be able to riot and fatten on the toils and labors of the oppressed multitude. Impositions long practised on plebeian ignorance with impunity, are now dragged to the high tribunal of popular investigation, the wily arts of intriguing dissimulation, are more easily detected. Schools are multiplied.—The press is busy, the key of knowledge is being restored to the rightful owners, and the enemies of our equal privileges are about being consigned to their condign reward.

The multitudes of freemen, who compose the vast community west of the Atlantic, having broken the chains of

despotic power, and established the standard of civil liberty, are progressing with a steady march and rallying round the splendid banner of mental independence. The oppressors of mankind must be eventually reduced to a common rank with their fellow citizens. Those, who have enslaved and degraded the bodies and minds of their fellow beings, must take a rank in society more consistent with republican equality.

Are the brutes by instinct wise, "To shun their poison, and to choose their food?" and shall we conclude that the honest housewife, capable of preparing a comfortable repast to feed the hungry, and refresh the weary, must be incapable of preparing a medicine to remove disease, when provided with materials, and the needful instructions? Shall it be thought there is so much more of mystery in the rational preparation of medicine, than in preparing a meal, that illiterate women can cook our food, and none but collegians can prepare a drink, or administer a remedy for disease!—If we will but candidly attend the reasonings of the writer, from whom we have quoted below, the folly of that implicit confidence, so often reposed in a learned faculty, must be abundantly obvious. Thomson has raised the *botanic* FLAG. The world is collecting heart and hand, to his triumphant standard. There is no stain of quackish insolence to be found in his system of medicine. It is rendered familiar to common capacities. It is adapted to the necessities of men.—It has sustained its reputation amid the flames of persecution.—It defies competition.—None of the remedies he has prescribed can be safely dispensed with—whatever auxiliaries may be occasionally admitted, in subserviency to time, place and circumstance, there are none of his prescriptions to be rejected—None to be mutilated.—They have been tested—have proved themselves to be the best known and always to have preference when attainable by the honest Thomsonian Practitioner.—None of the censure contained in the subjoined extract applies to Thomson or his honest, faithful adherents.—They deal not in unknown Nostrums—they prac-



tice no impositions. The success of the Thomsonian practice must and will bear down the strong current of quackish opposition, and is now without a parallel in the annals of medical history.

*To the Editor of the Gazette of Health.*

SIR—I agree with your intelligent correspondent, surgeon Scott, that a periodical work on the liberal plan of the *Gazette of Health*, has been long wanted in the country, and if a work so conducted have enemies among the members of the profession, you must have the satisfaction of knowing that they are the enemies of science, and that their opposition arises from sordid motives entirely. The human mind, sir, is easily captivated by positive promises, especially if (like the oracles of old) they are couched in ambiguous terms; and if the success of the advertisers of infallible remedies is attributable to public credulity or undistinguishing ignorance, a certain class of men, styling themselves *regular* physicians, are no less indebted to it for their present elevated situations of life. Such pretenders strenuously oppose all attempts to enlighten mankind on the subject of *their* art, by representing the motives of the authors unworthy, and their systems quackery. Now, sir, if the definition of the term *quackery*, given by Dr. Parr, of Exeter, be correct, viz: “A term applied to *every practitioner who, by pompous pretences, mean insinuations, and indirect promises, endeavors to obtain the confidence to which neither success nor experience entitles him,*” is no less applicable to them than to the advertisers of specifics and in no respect can it apply to medical men who devote their time to diffuse a knowledge of the art among the bulk of mankind, and especially those who have dared to expose fraud in whatever quarter they may have detected it. What say my friends, the scientific and groundedly learned doctors Latham, Stone, Pemberton, Curry, and other advertisers, to this very just explanation of *quackery* by the experienced Parr?

You have very properly exposed the ignorance and dishonorable practices

of regular men, (for such, according to the present established system of education they are termed) and of the nostrum-mongers; but, sir, there is a species of puffing among regular medical men which merits severe strictures, being far more disgraceful and injurious than the practice of nostrum-mongers, of advertising cures which were never effected, or of persons restored to health who never existed. I mean, sir, the recommendation of new modes of treating diseases, for the mere sake of giving publicity to their names, and to induce the public or their neighbors to suppose that they are very clever fellows. Numerous instances of the cruel effects of this practice I could here adduce, but for the present I shall only notice a few.

Bleeding, you know, has lately been extolled as a certain remedy for *diabetes* and some cases, to which this name was given, have been published in our medical journals, in proof of its efficacy. My late friend, Dr. Bickley, of Haslar Hospital, a physician of experience and observation, being afflicted with *true* diabetes, determined to give this new treatment a fair trial, immediately he discovered that he had the disease, notwithstanding it appeared to him to be very injudicious. He was bled by his friend very copiously; his strength was greatly reduced by the loss of blood, and the quantity of urine was not diminished, or its quality altered. Encouraged by the extravagant recommendation of the remedy, he determined to persevere. He was accordingly bled a second time to the same extent. His vital powers were so far reduced by the second operation that he was obliged to take to his room, and in a few days discharged his debt to nature. Would to God those persons, who first recommended this treatment, had been present when he commented on this “trifling with human life,” the day preceding his dissolution. “Had I pursued the *tonic* plan of treatment,” he emphatically observed, “which the symptoms of the disease indicate, I might have lived many years.”

Another *regular* puff is the oil of turpentine (clysterwise) as a remedy for locked jaw, by Dr. Philips, of Andover.

which was published in the transactions of the medico-chirurgical society of London, for the promotion of medical science!! A case of locked jaw occurring soon after the puff appeared, the medical attendant commenced with the remedy. The clysters proved unavailing: the remedy was freely applied to the surface of the body; but alas! although the body was well turpentinized both internally and externally, the disease advanced, and terminated in death, and the medical attendant gave his opinion that the disease was apparently aggravated by it, and, of course, its fatal termination was accelerated by it. The case published by Dr. Philips, as you very justly observe in your remarks on it, was clearly a hysterical affection, and not the disease termed trismus, or locked jaw, by surgeons, although it may be the "*trismus hystericus*" of physicians!! It had nearly run its course, and a lavement of gruel and salt would have proved equally successful.

Cases might be adduced of the effect of other remedies puffed off by medical men, as lunar caustic in epilepsy; arsenic in tic douloureux; the deadly nightshade in cancer, the caustic bougie in stricture; French flies in gleet, &c.

A great misfortune is, that in consequence of the medical art not being founded on a proper basis, or knowledge of the animal functions, practitioners make facts bend to their theories; and, for the purpose of establishing their opinions, magnify symptoms into primary diseases. Hence, if a patient affected with indigestion apply to Dr. Latham, if he should make a little more urine than usual, the chance is that he will pronounce the complaint *diabetes*, in consequence of having made a book on the causes, treatment, &c. of this disease. If the same patient take the opinion of Dr. Curry, he will term it *bilious*, and refer the cause to a morbid state of the liver.—If he should consult Dr. Bree, he will probably attribute it to effusion of serum in the air vessels of the lungs.—Dr. Bailey will expect incipient organic disease of the viscera. Dr. Smith will talk of effusion of serum in the ventricles of the brain.—Dr. Solomon will attribute his disorder to

nervous debility. Dr. Luxmore will intimate that it is a forerunner of dropsy; and Sir Everard Home will endeavor to detect the cause in the urethra.

Such, every medical man of experience in this metropolis knows to be the degree of *perfection* to which the healing art is brought by the labors of the moderns. For a rational system of medicine, which will bear to be examined by men of science, and in which the afflicted may place implicit confidence, we are certainly to look to the improving state of constitutional surgery, and I think that germs of it may be discovered in the scientific works of Mr. Abernethy &c.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

*For the Thomsonian Recorder.*

MESSRS. EDITORS,

As the Thomsonian Recorder appears to me to be well calculated to give valuable information to botanical practitioners, I have forwarded you a recital of a case of recent occurrence, which if you think sufficiently interesting to occupy a place in your columns, you are at liberty to place it before the public.

A certain Mrs. Stephens, aged about forty-seven years, had been for many years severely afflicted with a cough, and frequent ulcerations of some part of the thoracic cavity. These ulcerations were supposed to be on the lungs or some of their immediate appendages—she discharged large quantities of purulent matter. She had been afflicted in this manner through a tedious succession of so many years, that she had abandoned the fond hopes of obtaining a cure, and yielded the soothing flattery of illusive anticipations to indulge and meditate despair. Her flesh was wasted away, until her emaciated frame presented the appearance of a living skeleton connected by skin and ligaments. Her youngest child, I understood, was about thirteen years old. When she first made application to me, I was in Indiana, a few miles northwest of Connorsville, near to where she now lives. She stated her case. I proceeded to prescribe and administer Thomson's composition powders—saturated tincture of lobelia—Nos. 2, 3, 6,

nerve powder, &c., as the case appeared to require. Directed to prepare some stomachic bitters, to be compounded of Horehound, Poplar bark, Bitter Root, Sumach, Prickly-ash, and Thoroughstem. I was far from home, and not in a situation to put her through a regular Thomsonian course of medicine at that time. However, perceiving she had derived such special benefits from the small trial made of botanic medicine, she began to indulge a confidential hope, that if I could and would attend her, it was even possible she might obtain a cure.

Some time elapsed until, (a little more than a year ago,) in my travels, I passed through the neighborhood, she sent for me—I found her exceedingly low. She was afflicted with a severe attack of influenza. The fever was inflammatory and violent. All her friends had concluded that this certainly must be her last sickness. The diseased state of her lungs, and her worn down constitution were unfavorable and discouraging circumstances. The attack was sudden, severe, and had progressed for two weeks with increasing violence.

I commenced the treatment of this complicated and distressful case, by giving her composition powders, and No. 2, half and half, using the American Valerian very freely. After stimulating her in this manner for about an hour, or at least until I thought her strength was increased sufficiently to justify the attempt of placing her over the steam bath. In being steamed she sweat profusely, and every vestige of fever disappeared. I then used a cold bath, laving her with a solution of common salt in water and vinegar—then placing her in bed, I gave her about ten teaspoons full of Thomson's 3d preparation. This was given a little after dark—she soon puked two or three times—she threw up but little: She then became restless, and deranged, agonized with laborious breathing, and almost incessant coughing: She lost her speech, and tossed from side to side—frequently throwing herself on the floor in defiance of our utmost efforts to prevent her, unless we had opposed strength to strength, at the hazard of doing her some material injury. In this situation she continued until about the

break of day. The afflicted family watched with painful anxiety round her bed, in tears and sobs. All the encouragement I could give them was unavailing. As the morning light began to dawn, she commenced puking freely—soon called for food—took freely of stimulating tonics, and was soon so completely relieved, that her husband said, she was as lightsome as in her youthful days. She continued to improve in her general health. Last week I received information that she was expecting in a short time to present her much delighted husband with another heir.

Reflecting on cases like this, is it any matter of wonder, that the Thomsonian cause is rising in public estimation? Rather, I would say, is it not passing strange, that there should any one be found, so lost to reason, so blinded by prejudice, as to make opposition, when surrounded by so many demonstrations of the safety and unparalleled efficacy of the Thomsonian system of medical practice. These deep rooted prejudices must give way, they certainly are beginning to yield, and must finally disappear.

W. T.

#### TO "W. T."

Sir:—We have long since been acquainted with your unshaken confidence in the Thomsonian system, and strict adherence to his mode of practice. To this we attribute that distinguishing success that has marked your progress. Those who have pursued a mixed practice, and have confounded the usual remedies of the schools of medicine, will never be able by such a course to effect such cures by all their enchantments. If, in the course of our practice, we occasionally find room for *Boneset*, or for the Unicorn or Copaivi roots, they, with many other botanic articles, are Thomsonian remedies. They are not to be used to the neglect, seclusion or exclusion of a Thomsonian course, strictly so called; though, in many varied forms of disease, these and various other articles may be used as auxiliaries, as being

more particularly useful in some peculiar shape or manner in which disease may make its appearance. The system of Dr. Thomson is designed for family use—his object has not been to establish a druggist shop in every family, furnished with a thousand different articles. No: He intends his remedies shall be few, simple, and efficacious. It is not to get up a set, or order of men, as rival practitioners, to be launched forth on society, and take the places of that privileged order of the regular faculty with which society has so long been cruelly oppressed. He wishes every family capable of information, to be their own cooks, their own nurses—their own physicians. He has so simplified and reduced his system to common comprehension, that all may read and understand. That those in the humble walks of life may no longer be looking up to professional men, as the oracles of science, because they have learned a few Greek and Latin phrases, and often speak in terms they do not understand themselves.

Can a name alter the nature or efficacy of a medicine? What avails it whether we administer the “emetic herb,” or give “*Lobelia Inflata*?” whether we use “Cayenne” or “Capsicum?” or give as a nervine in plain English, “Lady’s Slipper,” or mumble over the technical name and call it “*Cypripedium Luteum*?” Let the world no longer be deceived by hard words, spoken in a tongue often unknown even by the speaker. Let men learn to exercise their intellectual faculties, and learn to do their own thinking, instead of eternally taking upon trust what others have thought for them. Men, too indolent to think closely and accurately for themselves, are ever ready to drink deep of the cup of strong delusion when presented by a hand reputed to be wise. Thus the fol-

lies of antiquity have been handed down to modern days, and foolishness is bound up in the very heart of many a learned novice. Our correspondents will bear in mind, how gladly we receive his friendly communications, and amidst his busy avocations occasionally transmit for the Recorder the labors of his pen.

*Editor.*

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## THE RECORDER.

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### COLUMBUS,

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1833.

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### CORRESPONDENTS.

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The following very interesting extract, is from the pen of Mr. Gould, a justly celebrated Stenographer, who is himself a decided Thomsonian. The letter was written from Delaware County Penn. Sept. 7th 1832. It was addressed to Elder Fredrick Plummer, Philadelphia. It came to hand in due season, but by some means was mislaid, and its publication unavoidably deferred until now.

Dear Sir, Permit me to call your attention a moment, to a recent triumph of the Thomsonian practice, in a case of a most alarming attack of cholera. A highly respectable member of the FRIEND’S society, near seventy years of age, between the hours of one and two at night, was violently seized; the family and all present were much alarmed. Having done every thing that sympathy and the emergency of the case could suggest, apparently to no good effect, they were querying in their minds, whether to send a number of miles for their family Physician, or to submit the case to a supposed quack, viz: our worthy friend, Elder Jesse Thomson.

The good old patriarch was writhing and tossing in the greatest agony, unable to sit, lie, or stand, with any composure, or, even to draw a long breath unaccompanied by hiccough, or.

distressful groans, which threatened each time to be his last, in consequence of the violent spasmodic cramp in the stomach, and other attendant symptoms, usually accounted fatal in this terrible disease.

His stomach and bowels had been considerably deranged for a number of days, or we may say, even weeks.—The day preceding the attack, he had been much fatigued in the heat of the sun. He was fully apprehensive of his danger; but confiding in the protection of his heavenly Father, he coolly assigned himself to the directions and prescriptions of our Thomsonian friend, remarking at the time, that he hoped that through the “instrumentality of this stranger, a miracle might be wrought, for the good of the people.” To the great joy of all present, he soon found relief from every alarming symptom. The next day he was seated at the head of his table, surrounded by his grateful family and friends. He and all his household are now firm believers in the efficacy and superiority of his system, nor will their light be hid under a bushel, but rather be elevated to shine forth as a beacon on a hill, to enlighten multitudes around them, many of whom are already enquiring “what shall we do to be cured?” To them, this answer is given, “Buy a right, get medicine from your own fields, and doctor yourselves.”

*Remarks on the preceding letter.*

Reformers and Improvers on Thomson's plain, safe and efficacious system of medical practice, are requested to give explicit, satisfactory information what they could have done more, or better for our venerable friend BACKUS? This we understand is the name of the old gentlemen, on whom this remarkable cure was so happily effected. What remedies, what mode of treatment, not strictly Thomsonian, will they venture to assure us, would have been equally successful? Thomsonian medicine will succeed most, probably in all curable cases, for the removal of disease, then a new and illustrious era has commenced

in medical practice. That his medicines do succeed beyond any remedies yet known among the faculty, admits of unequivocal demonstration. Why then should a restless itch for novelty induce any to abandon a safe and certain course, to involve themselves in the intricate labyrinths of imposture, and pursue fables hatched in bookmakers brains, to lead astray the unformed, and unwary multitude?—If Thomson's prescriptions have by their successfulness in removing disease and restoring the sick, transcended all preceding discoveries, shall we suddenly turn away, and again put to sea on the wide tumultuous waters of scientific uncertainty? Why should we court our own degradation, and impose on ourselves, or community to be again entangled in a yoke of scholastic bondage?—Shall we too foster the pride, encourage the ambition, and feed the avarice of those who may be attempting to deceive, be hunting with impatience after every nostrum, the inventive fancy of bookmakers, and bookpedlars may devise? This certainly would not be a judicious course. Thomson's system has been tested for more than forty years. Thousands beside himself can bear incontrovertible testimony of the extraordinary and unprecedented efficacy of his remedial means in every form of disease.—The reputation they have acquired, has been sustained by experience and observation. Persecution has sought in vain to stay his course—shall we then wander away after physicians and remedies, in the value of which we cannot safely confide? Thomson's system is simple and intelligible, reduced to the humble capacity of common life.—Common sense is the foundation and the strength of the superstructure. He has nothing of the humbug, hocus pocus, of Greek and



Latin technicalities, to strain & distort the organs of speech, bewilder the understanding, or make folly stare that "one small head containeth half it knows."

When pretensions are made to any improvements on Thomson's practice, we want authentic vouchers to substantiate their claims to our faith. We go for facts, facts grounded by testimony, and that testimony reputable and disinterested. The fame of Thomsonian cures, has spread far and wide—witnesses, the most impartial in multiplied thousands can be produced—their testimony has already astonished the world.—It belongs not to one century to produce a multitude of Thomsons.

There is something deceptive in the cry of reformation, and an improvement that can easily be detected by persons of discernment and reflection. Is LOBELIA, for instance, the best emetic within the knowledge of men? What improvement can be made upon it? Who can improve its medical qualities? The same interrogations apply to all his discoveries, who has lead the way and proclaimed its virtues to the world, before the windy schemes of more modern reformers had stumbled into being: Before the deep volcanoes of their fulminating minds, had diseboguend their illuminating fires, or their plastic hands had waved the magic wand of "New views" to catch the attention of the unsuspecting crowd. We have cogent reasons to believe beyond a doubt, that like their Brother Baalam they have loved and still love, "The wages of unrighteousness."

Under date of Feb. 19th 1833.

A respectable southern correspondent observes, "The Thomsonian Recorder does not arrive in our section of country, as speedily as the Eclectic, by a long reach.—I received one of Mr.

Little's numbers, purporting to be an answer to a part of your seventh number, two weeks before I received your seventh.—It is quite a puerile thing.—It has rather an ungentlemanly aspect, and appears so far, void of a strict and unimpeachable veracity, as may plainly be discovered, as to render it, in my estimation, completely ridiculous. You have my opinion on the subject, and I have had opportunity to be satisfactorily informed."

#### PUBLIC NOTICE.

COLUMBUS, Feb. 7, 1833.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the partnership heretofore existing between RUFUS FERRIS, THOMAS JOHNSON, HIRAM PLATT and JARVIS PIKE, under the title of the firm of Pike, Platt & Co., General Agents of Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, is this day dissolved: M. Platt having, by mutual consent of the parties concerned, withdrawn from the firm.

The business will, in future, be conducted by

JARVIS PIKE,  
RUFUS FERRIS,  
THOS. JOHNSON,  
*Gen'l Ag'ts of Dr. S. THOMSON.*

The firm will be known and distinguished by the name, term, title or appellation of JARVIS PIKE & Co.

The withdrawal of Mr. Platt from the general agency of the firm will have no tendency to interrupt the business or any way impede the operation thereof.

The present arrangement has been made by the mutual consent of all parties concerned in the general agency, and in the presence, and by the consent of Dr. Thomson. All debts contracted, or that may be due from the former firm of Pike, Platt & Co, will be promptly discharged by the firm of JARVIS PIKE & Co. All the debts, due to Pike, Platt & Co., are transferred to the present General Agents of Dr. Samuel Thomson, viz: JARVIS PIKE & Co. All such dues will be thankfully received by them. All communications relating to, or connected with the business of the company of the General Agency, will be addressed (post-paid) to JARVIS PIKE & Co.

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"

"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HERSEY, Senior Editor.

Vol. I.] COLUMBUS, MARCH 25, 1833. [No. 13.

From the Medical Enquirer.

## THE DISCOVERIES OF BARON DE HALLER.

The next discovery of importance to that of the circulation of the blood by Harvey, was the cause of this motion of the vascular system by Baron De Haller, who found it to arise from the stimulus of blood acting upon the *irritable principle* of the fibre. This useful discovery, like the former, excited the venom of a long opposition, and although founded upon experiments, was alike disbelieved, and when accredited, others were called in to participate in the honor.

**IRRITABILITY**—Is one of those grand truths which is undeniably demonstrated; and posterity, which alone stamps the merit of discoveries, by abstracting of persons, will promote this discovery to that rank which its usefulness entitles it to. She will laugh when she observes, that after its opposers had failed in persuading us there was no *such thing*, they should endeavor to render the doctrine *odious*, by the consequence which they pretend naturally follows from it.—She will be diverted to see physicians following the example of religious sectaries and devotees, interesting the cause of God with *theirs*, and accusing of *materialism*, such as differ from them in opinion as to the pulsation of the heart, and motion of the other organs.

A certain author, well known for his great talents, and the bad use which he made of them, has endeavored to draw this induction; but the illustrious De Haller, who was seriously affected at the imputation, has ably refuted the futility of such impious and absurd reasoning.

It is observable, that the motion of the heart not only survives that of the organs of voluntary motion, but continues a considerable time after it is separated from the body. Nay, after it has even ceased to palpitate, yet, as it still retains a latent power of contrac-

tion, its systole and diastole (the contraction and dilation of the heart) may, by the application of stimuli, be alternately renewed and continued some time longer. Hence in drowning or suffocation, though the pulse be imperceptible, and life apparently extinguished, yet the heart still preserves this latent power or susceptibility of motion; for though unable to propel the blood through the vascular system, yet it wants only to be generally excited by suitable stimuli to renew its action.

In the first rudiments of animal life, even before the brain is formed, the *punctum saliens* points out the embryo heart in miniature, and marks its *primal irritability* as a sure presage of vitality.

The heart of the chick begins to move, before we dare presume that there is any organ for distributing the nervous power. The *punctum saliens*, is the heart of the chick; it is seen beating while the body of the chick is but a rude, unformed, and gelatinous mass.

As this singular organ exhibits irritability the first, so it never relinquishes it till the last, and may therefore be considered as the *primum mobile* and *ultimum moriens* of the animal machine.

In animals with cold blood, the irritability is very great, and continues a long while. The heart of a viper will palpitate, when taken from its body, twenty-four hours, and that of a turtle thirty, or longer; and in animals whose blood is hot, it moves until the fat is rendered stiff by the cold; at which time the motions of the heart and all the other muscles commonly cease.

The celebrated Boerhaave acknowledges an active force in the heart, and a latent principle of motion in the pieces of it when cut, but nevertheless attributes this to the nerves, though the communication with the brain has been cut off! Dr. Whytt followed the same path, but with this difference of expres-

Nathan Hine

sion, he uses the term *irritability*, and imputes it to the soul, which feeling the impression of the irritation, occasions the contraction of the fibre; the soul therefore with him is divisible, and resides in every living part of the body. Accordingly we find also in other books, "all motion is owing to the soul, which being sensible of stimuli, contracts the fibres which are touched, and pulls them back to prevent their being injured." This is the *vis medicatrix* of the old physicians. However simple this theory may be, and like the doctrine of *plogiston* among the chemists, however commodious for disembarassing us from several difficulties, yet as it is not in unison with the phenomena that are observed, it must be rejected.

For, in the first place, the most *irritable* parts are those that are least *sensible*, and therefore not subject to the command of the soul, which ought to be quite the reverse, if the soul was the principle of irritability. In the second place, irritability continues after death, and in parts quite separated from the body, and deprived of its communication with the brain, for there is nothing more common than to see the heart of a frog beat, and the muscles remain irritable, after the head has been taken off, and the spinal marrow removed.

And in the third place, it is generally allowed, that the nerves are the organs, and the brain the receptacle of all our sensations, the sources of all our ideas; but the nerves and the brain are *not irritable*, therefore *irritability* has nothing to do with sensation.\*1,

Muscles are composed of longitudinal fibres which shorten themselves, and are so disposed that this contraction always serves some wise purpose. They elegantly terminate in tendons, which are braced by sheaths; and tho' so numerous, each occupies its proper place and just direction.

Color was believed to be essential to the constitution of a *muscle*. But in fowls, in amphibious animals, in fishes, in worms and insects, through all the gradations of animals, of different species, of different sizes, the colors of the muscular fibre change. In fishes and in insects it is generally white; even in the human body it is not essentially red; the fibres of the iris, and the mus-

cular coats of the arteries, the muscles of the stomach, of the intestines, and of the urinary bladder, are colourless. We cannot therefore define a muscle by that property which it often wants but we may, with the utmost propriety, characterize it by its *contractile power* the only true evidence of its nature; for the contraction of the iris proves it to be a muscle by truer marks than its color; and by the same rule the muscles of a fish, or of the meanest insect, are as perfect as those of man.

Such is the connexion betwixt muscles and their contractile force, or principle of *irritability*, that the moment it dies, all its astonishing power is gone: and the muscle which could lift a hundred pounds while *alive*, can bear the weight of but a few pounds *when dead*. Whereas, on the contrary, all those parts that are *inirritable*, as the ligaments, tendons, &c. are capable of bearing the same weight dead or alive.

This *irritable*, or *contractile* power in muscles is that property by which muscles recede from certain stimuli without any feeling, without creating any consciousness of action; and so little dependent is it upon nerves, that it is found equally perfect in animals and plants which have no nerves, and remains in parts severed from the body to which they belong. The *Polypus* according to John Hunter, is *devoid* of nerves: This irritability is so far independent of nerves, and so little connected with feeling, which is the province of the nerves, that upon stimulating any muscle by touching it with caustic or irritating it with a sharp point, or driving the electric or galvanic spark through it, the muscle instantly contracts; although the nerve of that muscle be tied; although the nerve be cut so as to separate the muscle entirely from all connection with the system; although the muscle itself be separated from the body: although the creature upon which it is performed may have lost all sense of feeling, and have been long to appearance dead. Thus a muscle cut from the limb trembles and palpitates long after; the heart, separated from the body, contracts when irritated; the bowels, when torn from the body, continue their peristaltic motion, so as to

roll upon the table, ceasing to answer to stimuli only when they themselves become actually dead. Even in vegetables, as in the sensitive plant, this contractile power lives. It is by this irritable principle, that a cut muscle contracts and leaves a gap; that a cut artery shrinks and retires into the flesh. Even when the body is dead to appearance, and the nervous power gone, this contractile power remains: so that if a body be placed in certain attitudes, before it be cold, its muscles will contract, and it will be stiffened in that posture till the organization yields, and begins to be dissolved. Hence comes the distinction betwixt the *irritability* of the muscles and the *sensibility* of nerves; for the irritability of the muscles survives the animal,—as when it is active after death;—survives the life of the part, or the feeling of the whole system, as in palsy, where the vital motions continue entire and perfect;—and where the muscles, though not obedient to the will, are subject to irregular and violent action;—and it survives the connexion with the rest of the system, as where animals which are very tenacious of life are cut into pieces:—whereas sensibility, the property of the nerves, gives the various modifications of sense, as vision, hearing, and the rest; gives also the general sense of pleasure and of pain; and thus the eye feels, and the skin feels; but their appointed stimuli produce no motions in these parts; they are sensible but not *irritable*. The heart, the intestines, and all the muscles of voluntary motion, answer to stimuli with a quick and forcible contraction; and yet; they hardly feel the stimuli by which their contractions are produced, or at least they do not convey that feeling to the brain.—There is no consciousness of present stimulus in those parts which are called into action by the impulse of the nerves and at the command of the will, so that muscular parts have all the irritability of the system, with but little feeling, and that little owing to the nerves which enter their substance; while nerves have all the sensibility of the system, but no motion.

The nervous influence is a mere stimulus to the voluntary muscles, as blood to the heart and arteries; food to

the stomach; or bile to the intestines. It loses its influence over the system sooner than the irritable principle in the fibre fails; for the irritable state of the muscle continues long after the voluntary motion, or power of excitement from the nerves, is gone; for when we die *slowly*, the irritable principle of the muscles is exhausted in the struggles of death. If while in perfect health, we are killed by a sudden blow, the irritable power of the muscles survives the nervous system many hours or days, and the flesh trembles, and the absorbents continue to absorb; and often as after suffocation, or drowning, we can, by operating upon this poor remains of life, restore the circulation, reanimate the nervous system, and recover that life which seemed to have entirely left the body; & thus the nervous influence, which seemed to animate the system, and to be the prime mover and source of life, owes its restoration to that which was conceived to be but a secondary power.

There are some muscles which have a stronger contracting force than others, and retain it a longer time after the animal is dead. The chief of these is the Diaphragm, which is always observed to move a long while after the others when the animal is dead, or at least, by irritating the phrenic nerve which goes to that muscle, it could be renewed. "I have seen it," says Baron De Haller, "irritable, and tremble an hour or more after death, when the motion of the intestines had entirely ceased, and many others have witnessed the same along with me."

"The Oesophagus, or gullet, when irritated, contracts itself very sensibly, and I have plainly seen its peristaltic motions after death, so that a morsel thrust into it, will be pushed upwards and downwards by the peristaltic motion excited by that stimulus. The gullet is composed both of longitudinal and circular fibres, but chiefly circular, abundantly more so than in the intestines; because this has no foreign power to assist it, and because it is necessary that food should make a shorter stay here than there. Hence it is that horses drink against the law of gravity.

The stomach\*2 is considerably irritable, and when touched with a corro-

sive, becomes immediately furrowed.—If you irritate it with a knife, either at the pylorus, or elsewhere, it presently contracts itself; and when wounded, the borders of the wound retract. You may see the motions of the stomach through the tendinous part of the diaphragm after it has been laid bare, as also shining through the peritoneum while the abdomen is entire. We therefore cannot doubt an instant of this organ being irritable.

The intestines\*3 both large and small are extremely irritable. When the intestine is only slightly cut, the wound equally retracts its edges; but if cut quite through, these curl themselves back, so as to embrace the parts above, or, in other words, they turn inside out.

When a part of the intestine only is irritated, it contracts so strongly there, that the cavity is quite closed, and the contents are pushed into the neighboring parts, either upwards or downwards, which dilate, and soon afterwards, being irritated by their contents they contract, and push along whatever is contained. Very often, after the motions of the intestines have ceased, they are renewed again, and increased by little and little; by some obscure cause which restores the irritability.—

After they have been taken out of the body, I have observed, continues Baron De Haller, this motion rather to increase. They may be irritated externally either with a knife, a needle, alcohol, or corrosive, but their internal surface is much more irritable.

\*1 The heart is divided into two auricles and two ventricles. The auricles communicate with their corresponding ventricles, and have valves to guard this passage. The valves on the right side are called *tricuspides*, on the left, *mitrales*. These prevent the recurrence of the blood into the auricles. The auricles & ventricles may be said to be hollow muscles, or rather may be compared to two hollow cavities on each side formed of one muscle; & the left cavities or muscles are more abundantly furnished with fibres, because a greater force is required to propel the blood through the body and the lungs.

\*2 The stomach is situated on the left side, below the short ribs. The

right side of the stomach is covered by the thin edge of the left lobe of the liver; the left presses on the *spleen*. Its figure nearly resembles the pouch of a bagpipe; its upper side being concave, and the lower convex, and its left end most capacious. The entrance from the *œsophagus* on the left side is called the *cardia*; that on the right, where the chyme passes into the *duodenum*, is named *pylorus*, where there is a circular valve, or sphincter muscle, which hinders the regurgitation of the aliment. The stomach has circular and longitudinal fibres, and its inner membrane is bedewed with a strong and viscid mucus.

\*3 The intestinal canal is usually five times the length of the individual. It is curiously convoluted in the abdomen. This space anatomists have thought fit to divide into six portions.

1st. The *duodenum*, because it is commonly reckoned in adults to be 12 inches long. At a small distance from where the stomach joins it, the common gall duct, and the pancreatic duct open into it; from the one it receives the bile, and from the other the pancreatic juice.

2d. The *jejunum*, from its being in general found empty, on account of the fluidity of the chyme, the stimulus of this, and the bile, and the prodigious number of the lacteals.

3d. The *ileum*, because of its situation near the pelvis, where the bones projecting like the wings of a pheasant, are called *ilea*.

4th. The *colon*, which takes an arch'd direction.

5th. The *cæcum*; or blind gut, a pouch, as it were, of the colon, about three inches long, and called *blind* from its being out of the direction of the passage of the food. Its diameter is twice as large as that of the other intestines. It has an *appendix*, called *vermiform*, whose use is not well ascertained, which floats loose in the abdomen.

6th. The *rectum*, or straight gut, is the last, and at its termination is surrounded by circular muscular fibres, called the *sphincter ani*. The first three are termed the *small intestines*, the last three the *great*. In the small intestines there are numerous *plaits* to detain the



food, and allow a wider surface for its absorption. These are larger and far more numerous near the stomach, where the food is thinner, than they are towards the colon. At the entrance of the ileum into the colon, there are two very large valves, which prevent the regress of the feces into the ileum. The cœcum and colon, besides having stronger muscular coats than the small intestines, are furnished with three ligamentous bands, running lengthwise on their outside, dividing their surface into three portions nearly equal.

*For the Thomsonian Recorder.*

LOGICAL DEDUCTIONS.

FROM ANATOMICAL FACTS.

LEBANON, March 5, 1833.

*Messrs. Editors,*

I. I hope you will not consider me too presumptuous, in offering for public consideration, a few concise remarks concerning the human machine, and the operative principles that sustain the phenomena of animal life.

II. Were I about to enter extensively into the important and intricate subject, I might commence with a specious development of the mechanical or anatomical structure of the human frame; but I only design a concise view of some interesting points, for useful illustrations, of certain principles inherent in the living animal body, without attempting any thing like a vain parade of scientific ingenuity.

III. To effect the object I have in view, I shall only take a passing glance at the mechanic or organic structure of man's body, and in this glance shall just take notice of what are called the solids, particularly the bones, muscles, glands, arteria and veins, with the nerves and the pores.

IV. The bones by their shape, size, and their articulations at the joints, the nature of their substance, and particular adaption to the end designed, give strength to the whole machine, and are subservient to aid and direct the motions of a living moving body.

V. The muscles inserted into the bones and clothing or enclosing them, connect and hold the frame together, and are sufficiently elastic not only to allow of but greatly to facilitate every requisite motion.

VI. The glands secrete and excrete not only the saliva, bile and urine, that are accounted excrementitious—but other glands in performing their functional operations supply appropriate fluids to moisten and lubricate dependent parts, or parts dependent on them for the supply or such necessary moisture and lubricity.

VII. The circulation of the blood in the arteries of a living man, conveys a stream of animation along their channels, and the ramifications of the veins distribute the living stream to the remotest extremities of our frame.

VIII. The nerves are the organs of sensation. They are the vehicle of communication between the brain and external objects. They originate in the cerebrum, and their sentient extremities coming in contact with exterior objects constitute the sensitive state or condition called seeing, hearing feeling, tasting and smelling.

IX. The cerebral nerves are the more immediate organs of sensation, and anatomists refer us to the nerves issuing from the spinal marrow, which appear to be a continuance or elongation of the medullary substance of the brain—to these the power of motion is said to belong.

X. The nerves appear to be the conductors of a nervous fluid, or kind of animal electricity, particularly the cerebral, and in this way originate sensation, and ultimately thoughts and combinations of thoughts, volitions and reflections.

XI. The pores of the skin constitute a great and important outlet, of superfluous matter—they are admirably adapted for the purgation or throwing off offensive humors from the whole machine by a universal stream of perspiration. By this means also the skin is kept soft as perspiration proceeds regularly in a healthy state. Through these channels about five-eighths of what we eat and drink is disengaged and discharged from the body.

XII. From this concise sketch of the subject, we arrive with a good degree of certainty to the following conclusions:

1. We discover that exercise of the whole body is of importance—to bring the elastic power of the muscles into action—rouse the nervous energy, move

the joints, and circulate the fluids.

2. We discover that it is very important to the well being of the animal system, to maintain a proper determination to the surface, to promote a free and full perspiration through the pores of the skin, that the system may not become loaded and oppressed, by the retention of those redundant and offensive excrementitious impurities, often offensive to the attendants, and which nature says should pass off that way.

3. The fact becomes obvious, that the rational way of cleansing the system of these deep seated and pernicious impurities, according to correct natural principles, is by the pores of the skin, not by drastic, debilitating purgatives, or cathartics as they are called.

4. We are drawn incontestably to the conclusion, that as the blood contains a principle of vitality, or a certain something, call it what you will, essential to a living state or state of sensation, volition, and voluntary action, this living principle of life, or principle essential to life, or a principle inducing a conscious sensitive living state, circulating in and with the blood, itself a living moving principle, or a principle imparting power to move, see, hear, feel taste, smell, live, or be alive, is conveyed in the vascular channels prepared for its circulation to every part of the living body—of course, every thing that has a direct or indirect tendency to diminish its quantity, or vitiate and weaken its quality, or impede its circulation is calculated to induce disease.

5. We infer from the premises, that wherever an impoverished vitiated state or condition of the blood exists, the nervous energy, or force of the nervous fluid is diminished, or rather perhaps I might say, the power of animal electricity is defective, the nervous system becomes relaxed, or contracted into spasm, and mental derangement often supervenes.

6. From these deductions as here presented, we discover that we may bring them to a focus, in one general inference, which may be stated thus: As to the living, sensible, human machine, "the blood is the life thereof," a vital principle, a principle of vitality, a living energy or impulse is there,

therefore if the blood be furnished to the system in sufficient quantity and of a salutary quality, and circulates with natural facility and regularity, the power of life is strong; but every unnatural or improper diminution of its quantity, and every defect or impurity in the quality thereof, or whatever impedes, interrupts, disturbs or deranges the natural and regular circulation thereof, is an approximation to death, because life, or the vital impulse is thereby reduced in force or energy, the principle of life becomes disturbed or vitiated at its very fountain—the living power is partially and inefficiently distributed.

XIII. As the living animal body, in which the stream of life is circulating, is invariably endowed with, or possessed of a certain degree of heat, it is evident that heat must be essential to vitality. It always accompanies the living state, either as a cause or an effect—we would say, as a cause, for where there is no warmth vitality is extinguished.

XIV. From what has been suggested above, we are naturally lead to inquire, upon what principle, the living system can be sustained in life and its wastings supplied. When its energies are impaired, how shall restoration be effected? How is life supported? How is the blood furnished or supplied with, or, what means can keep up the vital flame in the system? It is constantly diffusing and imparting warmth and action to sustain the living state of the whole machine, thereby wasting its energies or power to sustain vitality, or the state of living warmth, action, sensation, consciousness of perception, reflection, &c. Where the needed supply fails, these faculties, or living powers all decline. If a certain requisite degree of warmth is not supplied, vitality must become extinct, or in other words death ensues.

XV. Nothing can be more evident than, that the blood is constantly forming and supplied not only with recruits of its wasting quantity, but its qualities also, for all the purposes of life; and is furnished by the food, both liquid and solid, that is taken into the stomach, which passes through the process of digestion and is taken up by

the lacteals. A nutritious distribution ensues, imparting stimuli, warmth and motion through the whole system. These in connection with the air inhaled into the lungs in respiration—the changes it undergoes and the effect produced, may measurably account for all the phenomena of life.

XVI. I conceive the process of digestion to be an all important desideratum in the perpetuation of animal life and health. Whenever the powers of digestion are impaired by any defect in the quantity or quality of the food supplied, or some defect occurs in the organs themselves, the general condition of the system is effected as a natural consequence. In proportion to the impaired condition of our digestive powers will be the measure of our disease, the living fluid will become vitiated, weakened, or impaired, its stimulating, warm and warming powers will become defective.

XVII. On similar principles whatever poisonous or unwholesome substance is taken into the stomach, either as food or medicine, and by the organs of digestion thrown upon the system, will naturally impair the machinery, introduce a general derangement, and disease and death will certainly ensue, unless the pending evil is discovered in due season, the cause avoided and appropriate remedies applied.

XVIII. I have sometimes, by way of illustration, compared the human machine to a distillery, where the grain ground by the teeth, is transferred to the stomach to undergo a certain species of fermentation, by a proper combination of warmth, air and moisture—the process of digestion there commenced is more fully completed in the duodenum and its appendages, where the work of separating the spirit from the alimentary mass is performed.—The aqueous or watery part in which the vitalising spirit swims, is separated from the residue or solids—the lymphatic mesenteric glands, the lacteal vessels and thoracic duct are thus supplied, with that milk-like liquor, called chyle, which is found in these vessels in a short time after eating.

XIX. This chyle, is in the operation of digestion, separated from the chyme or ingested, partially digested mass of

food in its passage from the stomach to the small intestines, by a combination of the gastric, salivatic, and pancreatic juices and admixture of a portion of bile, the work of digestion is so far completed, that nutrition is imparted to the system. The chylaceous vessels that arise along the small intestines, take up and convey this fluid by appropriate organs for replenishing the blood in quantity and quality—the regular and natural exhaustion is thus supplied, and every waste restored.

XX. This I conceive to be an important point and worthy the calm and deep reflection of every one wishing to be correctly informed on the subject. If by any means the powers of digestion become impaired, what is the natural conclusion? May we not then conceive that the chyle, on the quality of which our nourishment depends, instead of being properly prepared, would furnish such a crude supply, or be presented to the lacteals in a condition not to be received? Of course what nature designed for our nutriment, would pursue a different channel, and pass off in this crude, imperfect, morbid state, like the *ricewater* stools attendant on the epidemic cholera. The blood in such cases looses, or is deprived of its wonted supply, its stimuli, heat and nourishment.—Its circulation becomes weak and languid, the extremities of the system become cold, shriveled, and the coagulated state that ensues, presents a purple hue upon the surface, the muscles contract and collapse with spasmodic confusion, the impoverished stream of life, give but a feeble tone to the vascular system, recedes from its wonted excursions, rolls back upon the heart.—Its action becomes feeble by oppression—the pulsation weak or imperceptible, until the “golden bowl is broken and the pitcher dashed in pieces at the fountain,” and death closes the scene.

XXI. I have made an allusion to the cholera, merely, for illustration; not that I would be understood as intimating that what is called the cholera, is a new, peculiar, and unprecedented disease; but, because it exhibits the phenomena of the closing scene of all disease, whatever form it wears, “beginning;” as Megendi said, “where other

diseases," or he might have said, other forms of disease, do "end, viz: in death"—or, I would say a rapid approximation thereunto.

XXII. All other forms of general disease, or disease affecting the whole system, are produced by the same cause, differing only in some local circumstances, or in degrees of violence. In every circumstance and degree of disease, some peculiar symptomatic difference or variety may be produced, but judging and naming disease, by a multitude of different names, after some predominant symptom, or symptoms, and applying or administering medicine to remove some peculiar symptom, and not for the expulsion of the cause, the removal of the disease, and restoration of the sick, has filled the shops with almost innumerable medicines; books with a multitude of unintelligible names, for the symptomatic variety, or diversity of forms, in which disease afflicts mankind, and the grave with innumerable dead, who have fallen untimely victims to learned folly and superstition.

XXIII. From the forming state of an incipient dyspepsy, or any slight morbid affection, and a collapsed state of cholera, there is a vast disparity in appearance: but the cause is the same in each, differing only in degrees and incidental circumstances; these, like the two poles, embrace every variety of degree that lies between them.

XXIV. In order to express more clearly my ideas, how we should prevent disease, let me follow up the comparison we have already made. Like a distiller of spirits keep our vessels clean, see that the stomach acquire no foulness, no sourness, lest it communicate a taint of impurity to the blood, the vital spirit; use only sound materials, wholesome digestible food that will yield good nourishment, lest there should be some failure in the process, and little spirit be obtained, and that of a poor defective quality.

XXV. To cure disease, let us do as the distillers do, clean the *beer cask*—let us cleanse the *stomach*—use emetics, stimulate it to an healthy action, supply it with wholesome digestible food, in this way fresh and good chyle will be

formed, the blood will be supplied with a stimulating spirit; action, warmth and nourishment will be the consequence. From a healthy state or condition of the stomach, the organs of digestion all acquire an healthy action, a salutary chyle is formed, and all the nutriment supplied will partake of the same healthful nature.

XXVI. Thus circumstanced, all the organic functions will proceed harmoniously, there will be a regular determination to the pores of the skin, of all that ought to pass those cutaneous excretories. From the chylous region to the surface, there will be a regular transfusion, transmission and transmutation, the whole machine will be kept clear of obstructions and impurities, and the established laws of nature operate unimpeded in the whole process.

XXVII. What nature would do, if it was able, unimpeded, unembarrassed in its operations, is just what should be attempted by the use of *medicine*. It is all it can do, to do any good. If the powers of nature be debilitated and embarrassed by any cause, and the vital functions languish, we must stimulate the system, rouse the living fire, excite the living principle to action and propel the motions of the whole machine. By warmth and action the fluids become rarified within, and this heat, exceeding the external temperature, gives a more vigorous and effective determination to the surface—cleanses the lungs, lingering impurities, and restores declining nature to its wonted health and vigor.

XXVIII. In effecting these important objects, sound discretion, aided by observation and experience, should be the criteria to regulate our efforts. An excessive irrational extravagance, that savours of violence in our effort on the one hand, or a cowardly, timorous, heartless, inefficient treatment on the other, are extremes to be equally avoided. When safe and well tried medicines are used, we should apply our remedies with all diligence and persevering faithfulness, for by perseverance, means have succeeded when hope had almost forsaken us.

XXIX. When injured nature is too

much weakened and obstructed in its operations, to execute its own laws with necessary effect, we should promptly and perseveringly afford her the needful assistance: In effecting these important objects, let us not forget that the stomach is the great centre of sympathetic associations, whether healthy or morbid, throughout the whole system.—In sickness, to establish the digestive powers, and give them victory, is a starting point. In this way, we may stimulate, and rouse, and impel the whole machine into a salutary operation—remove disease, restore to health, and triumph over ignorance and opposition, that we may meet with, often more formidable than the disease we have to encounter. To manage disease when it appears in a formidable shape, and at the same time, have to manage some of these refractory spirits, will require our utmost skill. The apostles' direction in another case, applies well here, "let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." W.T.

*For the Thomsonian Recorder.*

MEASRS. EDITORS.

I feel a deep interest in the success of the Thomsonian cause. I am but a poor man in a humble circumstance, but I have enjoyed some opportunity for useful information—I do not profess, as you editors would say, to be an "oracle of science," but I have examined the Thomsonian system, I think I understand it—I have witnessed its extraordinary effect when reduced to practice—I have known his mode of practice to prevail so powerfully in the removal of disease, in its most afflictive forms, that I cannot be sceptical. Nine out of ten, and I believe I may safely say, ninety nine out of an hundred, of those who are acquainted with the system, who really understand it, are not only satisfied, but they really admire the wisdom of his discoveries, and many acknowledge the providential hand that has guided his researches. There always will be some who loiter in everything. I am acquainted with some few individuals, whom it would be invidious to name, who have purchased rights, but remain ignorant of the system—they have never searched earnest-

ly into the subject. They are timorous, fearful and unbelieving. They are, in some places an injury to the cause. If any sickness happens in their families, they get frightened, alarm their neighbors, the neighbors in turn alarm theirs—half a dozen physicians are recommended—some one or more of the mineral faculty are called in, down goes a dose of calomel, the lancet is applied to a vein—some dovers powders are given, the patient worn down, they dose the debilitated sufferer with quinine—give cooling powders, one part of the twenty four hours, wine and brandy the rest of the time, and in most instances the patient is sure to die. Pass two or three miles from the scene of action, the story rises, that he was killed by the steam doctors—who scalded him with the vapour bath, or poisoned him with lobelia.

I am of the opinion that Thomson's system will have the effect to excite a far more general attention to medical subjects. People used to think that nothing could be done in religion without the Priest, they could not draw an indenture or make a will without a Lawyer, and if they had a pain in their toes they must send for the doctor. What ever these wise Men would say, was binding on their minds, and they could scarcely admit of an appeal from their judgment. In many places those days of superstition, & servile obsequious submission to learned dictators of thoughts and actions are nearly gone by, and the crown fallen from the heads of those arbitrary violators of human rights and privileges.

The Thomsonian system of medicine has gone powerful lengths in putting down the deceitful abusive spirit of medical arrogance and superstition. More vigorous efforts should be made for the establishment of botanic societies in every neighborhood where it can be accomplished. The most friendly disposition should prevail, and in all cases of sickness they should afford mutual assistance. Those who appear to understand the system best, who from natural genius, or from other circumstances have paid most attention to the subject and appear to be particularly attentive and successful in practice should be encouraged.



When any one is found to be trying new projects and making experiments with remedies with which they are not acquainted, and of doubtful efficacy, we should be as cautious and suspicious as young David was of Saul's armour that he had never tried.

I have never known Dr. Thomson's medicine to fail where it has had any thing like a fair chance. Some Thompsonians may fail for lack of perseverance, or confidence in the means employed—others by the unbelief, impatience and superstitious fears of the patient. Some are frightened at the name of lobelia, and the steams of warm water, because they have heard so many terrible stories about people being murdered that way, yet these people will swallow mercury as though it was sugar, hold out their arms to be scored with a lancet, and consent to wear a blister large as a small tea salver, and think its all an innocent harmless way of doing business. I know of a family that would not use pepper sauce with cold meat, a hash, or a beef steak on any account, because, forsooth, the family doctor, who is a very learned and respectable man has told them of many whose insides were eat and burned out hollow, by taking cayenne from the steam doctors.

I think your Recorder is calculated to do good, to enlighten the public understanding, to expose these dirty impositions, and spread the knowledge of the efficacy and excellency of the new system of medical practice. Every benevolent man, whose information on the subject is equal to the task, ought to devote a portion of his time and talents to your assistance. I find a goodly number are beginning to rouse to a sense of duty in this respect. I really hope many more will afford you a liberal contribution, that your labours may succeed with a growing influence, and that the spirit of competition and opposition, that would willingly check your progress, and supplant the venerable old doctor may get its quietus.

If I had time, and talents equal to the task, it would indeed give me much pleasure to try to lend a helping hand, but my remote situation, humble circumstance in life, and feebleness of talents prevent any extensive effort. If

my communication meets with a friendly reception, I may be encouraged occasionally to use my weak endeavours to assist a little to advance the cause. Not that I question your abilities, but I wish to do by you as Aaron and Hur did by Moses, I wish to hold up your hands, that they may not be weary, and that every Amalak that may attempt to impede your march may be put to flight. I think Thompsonians should be admonished to be careful and be well supplied with the medicines that he directs them to use, and to use them in the way he directs them to be used. He should study the system until it becomes familiar to his mind as the alphabet. Instead of teasing and fretting, when any one is sick to find out and try some new remedy, that some one has heard of and recommended, let them apply themselves; to the New Guide, and be guided by it, and they will not be deceived or disappointed. One of my neighbors said, he should believe more in Thompson if he had recommended more medicine. A great variety you mean, I suppose said I? Yes, said he, that is what I mean. Well said I, how many different articles does he recommend? I do not know was the reply. Well rejoined I, let me recommend, that you get thoroughly acquainted with all his medicines, and how to prepare and how to administer them, and how to manage the whole concern in relation to a patient, exactly, as he has prescribed, and then if you fail of success, it will be time enough to complain. Thomson's books if not read, understood and acted upon, will not effect cures. We are not to use his "Guide to Health," as some do their Bible under their pillow to protect them from the night mare—or the skin of a turkey-buzzard's gizzard in the pad of their saddle to keep off distempers from their horses. No: there is no such foolery about the old doctor. He tells a plain philosophical story. He states the facts in relation to his practice. We have proved the worth of his system in our family for several years, and could cite you to a number of cases as important, remarkable and surprising, as any in the long and interesting list, published by your Botanic Convention. My paper shews me that I must come to

a close. The dim candle nearly burned into the socket of the candlestick, and my heavy eyes admonish me, to be putting off to bed. I shall therefore only request, if admitted to the Recorder, that I may obtain a patient reading of what has been here respectfully suggested by  
A THOMPSONIAN.

For the Thomsonian Recorder:

A much esteemed correspondent in Nashville Tennessee, whose communication has been neglected for several months, writes thus:

Gentlemen, The "Recorder" has been recieved—I looked for it with anxiety, and wish it success. Happy the clime where the press is free, and can be employed for the good of every body! I consider the "Recorder" as being an instrument well calculated to hasten on the progress of reformation in medical practice, which is much needed. You have engaged in a great and important task. Your labours will be often painful and vexing. If truth, once told and fairly proved, was universally adopted & acted upon, as it ever ought to be, your labours would be as easy, as they would be pleasing and useful: but alas! It is not so! Mankind are prone to love mysteries and delusions better than genuine knowledge and unadulterated truth. Human passions are hostile to the happiness and welfare of mankind.

The designing subtlety and craftiness of men, forming a coalition with two of the most potent tyrants on earth, FASHION AND PREJUDICE, will act vigorously against the truth, the natural enemy of falsehood and deception of every kind. Such is the power of truth, the enemy cannot prevail to effect its entire destruction, but will often succeed to throw many impediments in its peaceful way and retard its progress. May the "Recorder" rise triumphant and burst through the dark clouds of ignorance, bigotry and opposition, may it enlighten the earth, as the rising sun shoots

its cheery rays through the dark mantle of gloomy night, and sheds its benign influence on the numerous millions that dwell on its vast surface.

Every philanthropist must hail the appearance of such a work with strong emotions of joy and gladness; especially at this momentous period, when the whole earth is threatened to be overrun with a frightful epidemic. What shall prevent its permanent settlement in the world? In vain shall we attempt by the gum rotting, life destroying calomel, to arrest its deadly march. Bleeding, purging and mineral poisons are only engines of destruction that aid the destroyer in the work of death. At this eventful crisis, more than ever, do all the circumstances of the times require, that learned quackery should be counteracted, and every man become his own physician. The security of life and health call imperiously for the most vigorous efforts, to suppress imposition, and spread the knowledge of the truth, and shed the light of Thomsonian discoveries round the world. Let the citizens of our free country rise in all the majesty of free and independent citizens to cast away the chains of oppression; no longer pay tribute to a privileged order to *think for them*, but learn to think and act for themselves. Let them lay aside their prejudices, and enquire for themselves individually, into the truth or falsehood of every thing relating to their personal welfare. Let the people no longer shrink from so important a duty, no longer fear the scorn, the grins and whining ridicule of an imperious overbearing faculty, nor dread their unavailing efforts to laugh men out of their senses! How childish, shameful and ridiculous, for a free citizen of the most enlightened and happy country in the world, in the 19th century, to suffer himself to be so wretchedly imposed upon, as to expose his life, to scientific experiments, for fear of the scorn and sneers

of those whose interest it is to oppose the progress of light and truth, to hold the key of knowledge at their own disposal, and rivet the chains of ignorance on the people! How dangerous the rash experiment! Will not the man who suffers himself to be laughed out of his reason, stand in imminent danger of being laughed out of the last remains of civil liberty, and all the privileges and blessings connected with our republican institutions? I pity the man who can be induced to abandon truth, for no other reason, than because he is opposed by frowns and sneers: such an one is indeed an object of contempt. Go on Messrs. Editors—proceed fearlessly to expose naked truths to the eyes of the world. Though many may be blinded by prejudice, ignorance and superstition, yet some may be recovered and become clear sighted. Mysterious quackish impositions must fly before truth, before genuine knowledge, as darkness recedes before the light. You have not only to contend with your open and declared opponents, but even with many, who are professedly supporters of the Thomsonian system, but too easily carried away with every wind of doctrine, or have not fully escaped from their old superstitious prejudices. Many are not fully aware of the pernicious effects of the mineral practice, and of giving purges on every occasion. Dr. Thomson has certainly given plain and faithful warning against so much physicking or purging. This is a mode of treating disease, very seldom if ever necessary. Many think the hot stage of fever is the most dangerous, notwithstanding all who have died of agues have died in the cold stage, and all who are dead are cold. These errors, of which I am speaking, are indeed pernicious—they may lead an incautious and uninformed practitioner to fatal conclusions. It is not only necessary to have good remedies, but it is of peculiar consequence to

administer our remedies upon correct principles, to be governed by a true theory. In this way we may proceed safely and successfully. To be learned in any art, it is not necessary to be deeply versed in mummeries, incantations and witcheries to delude and deceive men, nor to study out and discover every thing that is useless, inefficient or injurious, but to know what is essentially true in relation to the subject about which we may be engaged. Would it qualify a man to preach the gospel of the Son of God, to be deeply initiated in all the legendary mysteries of the Egyptian priesthood? What can it avail any man, as a practitioner of medicine, to read and understand all the conflicting theories, and hypothetical conjectures of all the schools of medicine, that have risen and declined, since the days of HYPOCRATES, to the present time? Practice must be the test of theories. We must "judge the tree by its fruit." May the day soon come when the veil shall be torn from every face, when the people shall be no longer deceived, no longer be led astray by the vain and empty pretensions of an aspiring ambitious faculty. Their pretended skill has been tested—look back on the history of the world! If the grave could speak, it would tell a tragical story! Yours with respect,

D. F. N.

TO D. F. N.

SIR, we have read your valuable communication with intense interest. It is with pleasure we embrace the present opportunity, to spread your sentiments before our readers. If all who have any thing to do with Thomson's system of practice, would adhere with inflexible fidelity to his prescriptions and mode of treating disease, if they would carefully examine, until they had a full under

standing of his scheme, they would find themselves equally successful, with those who by the same means have become eminent for their skill, and have gained for themselves and our illustrious patron a name and a praise. They would all be able to say, with unwavering lips, "He has, both by precept and by actual demonstration, astonished us, with his profound knowledge of the principles which govern his practice." This must be the language of every true disciple. Mongrel Thomsonians are the greatest evil that can befall the system.

A respectable Thompsonian practitioner in the northerly part of this State, in a letter dated March 4th ult. observes,

"The Regular Faculty in this section of the country complain of the inattention, and ingratitude of the Legislature in relation to their state and standing in society. This kicking their *law legs* from under them has given them a prodigious jolt. With law legs and "a'that," I never thought that in their best days, they were much above the ordinary statue of common men, of-course they must feel their loss. The botanic practice is gaining ground, spreading rapidly from one section of the country to another, and occasions some of our regular medical gentry to feel bad and look bad, for it makes them look angry. Some affect to laugh at their calamity, others, if you but mention the subject, their faces gather blackness.

I said the Thomsonian practice is spreading—we hear so from many places, and we know it is the case in this place, and through the adjacent country. I have not had a days leisure since my return home. In several townships where the practice has never been introduced before, they have this winter given me a large share of their custom, and so far, appear to be well satisfied, with the novel practice."

The Boston Investigator of the 22nd. February ult. contains the following notice:

"Dr. B. Thomson made a report of his success at his Infirmary, which we published in time to have been laid before the Thomsonian Convention at Columbus, Ohio; but as it does not appear that any notice was taken of it, he fears that it must have miscarried; especially as in the same there was a request for five copies of the Thomsonian Recorder, with a promise to pay for them to the agent here, none of which have arrived. He now wants not only his five copies which he sent for before, but also one in addition, to be sent to Oliver Clapp, Holden, Mass. all from the commencement if possible."

To Dr. B. Thomson.

SIR, The Thomsonian Recorder, on the reception of the above notice, was immediately committed to the mail agreeably to your directions. The communication alluded to has never arrived. We take a deep interest in the progress of the Thomsonian cause—we had intimations from various sources that your Infirmary had well sustained the reputation of the system, but as we had not any official intelligence, and not being willing to propagate information on fluctuating testimony, we have been entirely silent on the subject. Should your interesting document be forwarded to us, it will soon find its way into the Recorder and be dispersed through the United States. If postmasters were every where prompt and faithful in the discharge of their official duties, we should not meet with so many disasters. The business of that department in many instances receives a very superficial negligent attention, even from those whose oaths require precision and undeviating fidelity. As it is an era of revolutions and improvements, we seriously hope that some improvement may be effected in

that department. Honesty and ability are essential prerequisites to qualify any man for a postmaster, and were these universally required as a *sine qua non*, regardless of all political partialities, we might expect a more dignified, honorable and satisfactory management, of a concern of so much magnitude, so inseparably connected with the rights, privileges and common interest of society, all which, by complicated malpractices, are frequently trampled under foot with impunity. We know the department has many difficulties to encounter—many efforts have been made to give energy, and satisfactory effect to its operations. Designing individuals may impede the best exertions. The department has our best wishes, that every honorable effort to improve its condition, may be attended with abundant success.

#### *Tobacco.*

A saturated tincture of well cured tobacco in proof spirits, externally applied is an effectual application for the destruction of lice of every species. The essential oil of sassafras may be successfully used for the same purpose. The essence of Tobacco, prepared from the essential oil dissolved in alcohol is equally efficient, when applied to men or brutes. Notwithstanding the high encomiums some have given this remedy, even venturing on its internal use, both by the mouth and injections, in cases of the cholic and obstinate constipation of the bowels, we shall enter our protest against its internal use in any case, or in any form. When externally applied, the use of this deadly poison, requires the utmost caution. Instances of death have occurred by wrapping the stomachs and bowels of children in tobacco leaves, under the foolish whimsical pretence of destroying worms. If any application be made of the tincture as above, let

it be attended with care and moderation. In the use of any remedy, for any disease, or difficulty, it is a gross absurdity of conduct, to avail ourselves of any thing, as a remedy whereby we may probably be involved in greater difficulties, than those we were seeking to prevent or remove. With some practitioners this pernicious article has been used in the composition of pills, and in the form of syrup, and tincture &c.

"The nauseous and disgusting practice of chewing or smoking tobacco, is in many constitutions," says Dr. Thacher, "productive of unfavorable consequences; it is particularly prejudicial, to persons of weak digestion, or delicate habits, and to those who are predisposed to consumptive complaints. In every instance where the use of tobacco produces an uncommon discharge of saliva (that fluid so necessary in the process of digestion,) its narcotic effects are more powerfully exerted, by which the tone of the stomach is weakened, and every kind of dyspeptic symptoms are produced.

*A correspondent of Pr. Edward Va.*—under date of Feb'y 19th ult. observes that "The philosophy of the Thomsonian system of medicine is as common a topic of conversation as any other. There appears to be a spirit of untiring enquiry among the people: They take an interest in detecting and avoiding error, and in eliciting and pursuing truth, of course, the days of the *jell destroyer*, *HERCULEY*, appear to be rapidly hastening to a close. Furthermore, the miners, or, as Dr. Thomson humorously calls them, the grammar Doctors, the destroyers of mankind, are in many instances aware of the fact. A number of the foppish faculty are angry enough to twist spitefully and almost to bite themselves and others too.

Some instances occur in which these *very learned*, and by far more



onced doctors, have been known to recommend to their near friends, & relatives, the use of Thomsonian remedies for the removal of disease, & obtaining relief in sickness, while they make pompous pretensions of curing the maladies of others, not relations or connections, by the old mineral course. From such events may we not augur the signs of the times? Are not the people awakening and shaking off a tedious lethargy? May the brilliancy of Thomsonianism shine with growing brightness, extending its empire among the glad nations, until the blessings of its munificent reign shall be felt through the wide world, until the whole family of man shall see and hear and feel and know the simplicity and efficacy of his system. The scarlet fever has raged extensively in this section of Virginia, but the Thomsonians have met it successfully in almost every case—I have not heard of more than one or two exceptions."

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## THE RECORDER.

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### COLUMBUS,

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SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1833.

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#### *To our Correspondents.*

A communication signed "A VIRGINIAN" has been received—his prompt & unquestionable devotedness to the Thomsonian cause receives the sanction of our most cordial and conscientious approbation. If any person is offering to sell rights for \$10 per set, on condition that 500 purchasers could be obtained, or even 5000, we view him in no other light than a TRESPASSER, acting without authority, or wantonly abusing his trust. We wish to ascertain the name of such an intruder, that if he should be found to be a transgressing

agent, abusing his trust, and abusing public confidence, he may be conducted safely out of our employment. If any thing of this nature has taken place in any section of our country, we suspect an enemy hath done it, and we solemnly warn every Thomsonian agent to be wide awake and watching. Thomsonian Rights are held invariably at \$20. And additions that shall be made to the edition next to be printed can be furnished to those who purchase the present neat edition in the form of supplement, and the arrangement will not be any impediment to any contract, when the thing is fairly understood. For every one who stands fast in the cause, will be entitled to his full share of all useful information that we can furnish, on the Thomsonian system of medicine. The untiring efforts of innovators and reformers, require union, energy, and perseverance, among those who are determined not to be gulled and deceived by the pomp, parade, and bustling circumstances attending the wanton march of splendid professions of improvements.

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A communication from an intelligent and respectable agent in old Virginia, states thus, "The Ed. of the Eclectic has sent me his paper regularly. I once concluded that I would request him to favor me by stopping the work, after I saw the manner in which it was conducted. I concluded, however, that I would let it come on, as an example to posterity, shewing the unmanly and unfair weapons used against the

Fever and Agina Maligna, improving on the (New England) practice to important benefit. This came into my hands about two years afterwards.— Again in 1784, '5 and '6, within the knowledge and observation of the writer, a similar scarlet fever called throat distemper, epidemic and malignant, prevailed to a great degree throughout all New England, and mortality as at former times, where the practice (then modern) was generally known. Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine suffered exceedingly. The disease was attended with similar mortality on one mode of treatment, while the other judiciously applied, was remarkably successful. The counties of York and Cumberland suffered great mortality, insomuch that some physicians were ready to give up, judging that the sick were not benefitted by their prescriptions, as they lost more than half their patients.

In the hundred cases (of those years) under the immediate observation of the writer, the modern practice was successful generally, and almost universally, unless where it could not be seasonably applied, owing to the numerous demands upon professional skill.— The humors of the disease are so extremely corrosive that they require emollients, absorbing correctors, easy perspiratives, and moderate evacuations, which if judiciously applied will be attended with success almost universally.

As to those drastic applications, the writer had repeated opportunities, in consultation, to observe their pernicious effects when not mortal; the mouth, gums, tongue, were eaten into cavities; the tonsils and palate wholly gone; the ear injured; the hearing lost; the blisters round the throat mortified, & orifices eaten through the windpipe, which never closed up. Terrible unmanagable ulcers followed the blister on the limbs; and other parts of the body mortified, and fell off, leaving the bones bare—miserable objects that could neither speak nor hear, taste nor smell, if they lived. Some of them did survive for years, and for ought I know, two or three of them still exist.

AARON PORTER.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

*For the Thomsonian Recorder.*

SCARLATINA.

*The butchers and the diplomatic quacks, do much for the support of the farmer's and the cabinet-maker's.*

The alarming cry of cholera has measurably subsided in our country; but, as has been anticipated, disease prevails in another form. The scarlet fever has become the successor of cholera. Death is as common in and about Lebanon as the occurrence of noon and midnight. Children are swept to the grave at an alarming rate, notwithstanding the promptness and zeal of their parents, who have industriously applied to, and regularly employed the most regular and skillful physicians among the regular and scientific faculty, our ill-fated section of Ohio furnishes. All this availeth them nothing. One thing is particularly remarkable, in this dreadfully distressing and extensively mortal epidemic, that all those who use the Thomsonian remedies recover—I say all, and I think it must be a correct statement, for I have not heard of a solitary exception among the numerous families who have employed the Thomsonian doctors, or have obtained their remedies and used them. There is something stranger still, I have not heard of an instance of death, where they have avoided the calomel faculty and kept warm, using warm stimulating tea. Facts like these speak in strong language against the diplomatic doctors. I think it is speaking fairly, and candidly, to say, that on an average they have lost nearly, or quite three fourths of the patients they have practiced upon. There is another thing stranger yet, there are many who continue to employ them again and again, notwithstanding their ill success. Some of the faculty quarrel among themselves, and accuse each other of being such notorious quacks, that they sometimes refuse to consult together. Those who have been treated with such indignity, retort upon their accusers and affirm in turn, that they are impudent assuming quacks, who are wishing to put

them down in public estimation, that they themselves may rise and engross all the practice.

It becomes us to arbitrate the case righteously between them. It would be ungenerous and unfriendly to accuse them of lying and wilfully slandering each other. We are bound in the exercise of an honorable, impartial charity to presume that they speak the truth concerning one another. Their ill fated practice fully corroborates this charitable conclusion, and confirms the truth of my motto! We now come to the enquiry, what is the scarlet fever? As it has appeared among us, it is an inflammatory state of disease, what has been called canker rash; there exists a cankerous putrid state of the humors in the mouth, throat, stomach, &c., often extending through the whole of the intestinal canal. It varies in appearance according to the different degrees of malignity attending it, from its most simple state of slight chills, nausea, thirst, headach and the red blotches on the skin, up to that violent state of disease called a putrid sore throat. In its worst form there are cankerous ulcerations in the throat, the efflorescence on the skin assumes a more livid hue, and all the symptoms of malignancy and putrescency rage with violence. This cankerous putrefactive state of the humors, this corruptive slough, arising on the coats of the stomach throat and bowels, appear to me to be occasioned by cold, or, by the reduction of vital heat. When there is a diminution of vital heat the powers of digestion become impaired; the *blood-making* organs loose their tone and become obstructed. By inhaling a damp cold heavy air, unfit for respiration, perhaps impregnated with some deleterious quality, some contagious injurious gaseous vapour. It seldom if ever makes its appearance until the cold season of the year, and then the more variable, sudden and violent the changes of the weather the more prevalent this form of disease. In the cold season, when the weather is open and variable, and sudden cold succeeds an open warm spell of weather, the rarified exhalations or unwholesome effluvia, whatever their specific nature may be, become suddenly con-

densed and depressed to the surface of the earth. and the feeble organs of children are not able to withstand its pernicious influence.

The effect of sudden changes from cold to warm weather Dr. Thomson in his Cholera Chapter. Sec. 66th explains in this way, alluding to a former season he says, "The heat of summer came on suddenly, and the weather became rapidly and intensely hot. The inward heat of men's bodies could not rise in proportion to the external heat, they had not time to take in, take up and absorb the caloric or heating principle from the atmospheric air they used for respiration." We see plainly that the state of the weather, and the state of the human body on the account, of that state of weather, have been favorable to the production of disease. It is under similar circumstances the scarlatina has ever made its appearance.

In the progress of this complaint, after it has made its attack on a person, and the cankerous ulcerations and corruptive slough are formed and mingled with the gastric juices and contents of the stomach, can it be thought unreasonable to conclude that the nutriment supplied from such a source cannot fail to communicate a contaminating influence to the blood, and to all the contents of the vascular system. May we not suspect a morbid irritation to prevail? Will not the pores be in some degree closed by the reduction of vital heat? Hence a hot, dry skin, and a quick hard pulse.

If the cold and canker be not speedily removed, a due degree of heat restored, and a free determination to the surface produced, and the pores effectually opened, the disease will rage inwardly, its force will be specially located about the throat, mouth, tonsils &c. ulcerations from which an acrid corrosive rheum proceeds will then arise. The tongue will be covered with a brown yellow coat, the breathing will be laborious, the throat and neck swollen, stiff and sore—swallowing difficult—breath hard and offensive to the smell—the head deranged, and many other symptoms that indicate the violence of the disease.

In such a case as here described, the disease puts on a dangerous appearance.

I would simply call it a cankerous sore throat accompanied with a rash or florid efflorescence on the skin. By giving medicine and using proper means to produce a general determination to the surface, the cankerous humour is propelled and protruded to the surface, where it exhibits its virulence and violence in an eruption, in dark red blotches that appear first about the neck and face, extending gradually over the whole body. This appearance has given rise to the name "SCARLET FEVER." If this determination to the surface be properly encouraged and judiciously managed, the intestines, stomach, blood and tonsils will be cleaned from their cankerous filth, the soreness of the throat &c. prevented or relieved. Physicians have divided this disease into three classes or forms and given to each a name viz: *Scarlatina Simplex*, or most simple mild form of the disease. The *Scarlatina Anginosa*, when attended with inflammation, swelling, and soreness of the mouth, throat tonsils &c.; and *Scarlatina maligna*, when it puts on a more malignant and terrifying form. But it is all the same affection: a mere circumstantial or symptomatic variety in the appearance of one and the same malady. Different degrees of virulence in the cause, different degrees of predisposition in the system to be affected, and different degrees of suddenness and violence in the changes of weather to give it effect are sufficient to account for all the seeming variety. When all the symptoms are strongly marked, and violent, it is only the result of a more effective combination or concurrence of circumstances. The influence of these causes are manifested by the symptoms: 1st. Chilliness running through the system from a loss or diminution of the usual degree of vital heat. 2nd. Sickness at the stomach and occasionally vomiting from a reflux, or regurgitation of the fluids upon the stomach and central regions. 3rd. The dryness and shriveled, peculiar appearance of the skin, from the constricted, or collapsed state of the pores thereof. 4th. The Typhoid stupor, lassitude, languor, fetid ulcerations, livid discolorations of the eruptions, and cadaverous countenance, which demon-

strate the abounding of impurities, and the great degree of obstruction that prevails in the vascular system, tainting the springs of life at the fountain. 5th, The tumefaction, soreness and ulceration in the mouth, throat, tonsils &c. or the numerous vesicles filled with a sharp excoriating rheum. Under circumstances like these, how shall we proceed? I answer, cleanse the stomach effectually with No 1. Cleanse the bowels with the same by injection. Combine both these with warm diffusible stimulants particularly No. 2. Combine these with No. 3, to remove cankerous impurities and you have gained three points, viz: 1, You have produced a determination to the surface; where the pores being opened the cankerous affection is thrown out in the form of an efflorescence on the skin. 2, You have discharged from the stomach and bowels the accumulated load of morbid matter with which they were oppressed and produced action and heat in the chest, particularly in the stomach, the great center of sympathetic communication with the whole system. 3rd, You have disordered and loosened the cankerous slough, cleansed the vesicular ulcerations of their foulness, removed obstructions, produced a more healthy secretion generally, by exciting and sustaining a more healthy action.

Let the practitioner now be careful to maintain the ground he has gained. Proceed to afford all needed assistance to the appetite and digestion. The latter must be strengthened and the former supplied with wholesome nutriment. If digestion receives the necessary aid, until nature can have time to resume something of her wasted energy, you will find your patient in a very safe and promising condition. If the tonsils, and other glandular parts of the throat be inflamed, and swollen, leaves of the common mullein, scalded in sharp vinegar, and applied externally to the throat produce a very happy effect; when they can be obtained they deserve trial. I am in the habit of bathing the throat with No. 6. It will be found useful to wash and gargle in a tea of capsicum and bayberry. If the case has not proceeded beyond the reach of medical assistance, if we

powers of life are not depressed too low before you commence, for means to act upon, and you should lose more than one out of an hundred patients, I am sure it will be poor success, and you would do well to review your steps and see if you have not some cause to regret the sparing use you have made of these safe and efficient remedies, or the careless superficial application of them.

It may be asked with much propriety, why our diplomatic Faculty loose such a vast proportion, say, nearly all their patients who have employed them in *Scarlatina*? The answer is easy—they have not a correct conception of the cause of the complaint, of course they do not understand what remedies to apply for its removal.

A reduction of inward heat below the healthful standard is the cause, and by their depletive, anti-remedial course, and destructive poisons, they assault the vital throne of life, increase and strengthen the force of the disease—go over to the enemy to break down the citadel of nature—break down the *vis medicatrix natura*, and sink the unfortunate victim to an untimely grave.

By blood-letting, the powers of nature already on the decline receive a shock; they boast of bleeding until they have made an impression on the system, and strange it is, that they do not and will not see, how often the boasted impression produces a fatal result. By bleeding, the declining energies of life are hurried on their downward road, from which it is often impossible to rise. Many such cases can easily be quoted in every place where this depleting business is carried on to any considerable extent.

By drastic purges, or *cathartics*, as they are called, they increase the predisposition to a determination of disease to the internal parts. It occupies a central position—the flux of humours is turned inwards and the enemy is detained to carry on the work of devastation and death already commenced. By spunging the surface repeatedly with cold water, they check the efforts of nature in what may be termed a reaction, they close the spiracles, or pores of the skin, and prevent the cancerous rheum from passing off at the

external surface. The whole volume of blood and its tributary fluids are more and more vitiated by this detention. That which ought to have passed off freely through the pores regurgitates to the stomach, and intestines. The system is debilitated and depressed, the vital heat abated, the powers of life depleted. The natural stimuli of the blood to the vascular system is diminished by draining it away with the lancet. The disease and the doctor complete the work of destruction. The sufferer goes to his long home and the deluded mourners go about the streets.

Who, that reflects on the fashionable mode of treating this form of disease, can fail to discover, that the foundations of the disease are made strong by an erroneous and destructive practice? The energies of nature are reduced, she can make but feeble resistance. In her plainest efforts she is met and headed at every turn, point and corner—counteracted in every attempt for relief. Can it be thought a strange event that these regulars should be so unsuccessful? That these *quacks* as they are accustomed to call each other, should loose nearly all their little tender patients? Nay, is it not rather strange that any of them ever recover? May we not readily account for the fact that a great proportion, who have not employed any physician have recovered, using nothing but warm stimulating drinks prepared by their mother?

From the premises before us is not the sentiment contained in our motto fully confirmed?

A gentleman of our Town facetiously observed the other day, on finding our learned doctors lost about three fourths of their patients, "If I," said he, "was to employ one of these calomel doctors, I would send the measure of the child at the same time to the cabinet maker."

Botanic doctors on the Thomsonian system will not be liable to more than one temptation to do evil, in the hope that good might come; but the "temptation when it is finished bringeth forth death." The practice is fatal! I allude to the use of cathartics, I do not mean mineral purgatives only—No, but vegetable cathartics also. This class of medicines should be studiously avoided in this form of disease, in every



stage. All the evacuations that are needful can be effected by the emetic, by injections, and by perspiratives or the warm stimulating drinks. If the injections do not answer your expectations in the usual way, administer them in cool water,\* and you will have all the purging medicine required.

If the precaution I have suggested be disregarded, and one heavy purgative be taken, yea, even a dose of castor oil, neutral salts, magnesia however innocent, or harmless these may be called you will in all probability lay a foundation for troublesome work. There will seldom occur a case in which the patient will not sensibly sustain a serious injury, even from so simple an experiment.

The reason of these unpleasant and troublesome consequences is very obvious. Purgatives draw all the fluids, whatever may be their condition, inwardly, check the general determination to the surface, reduce the strength and the inward heat of the patient, cause the cankerous vesicles to multiply, and the cankerous slough to accumulate with more firmness and tenacity, and the whole becomes more corrosive and inflammatory.

I have forwarded this sheet for the Recorder from an imperious sense of duty. The SCARLATINA is now pervading many places in North America. It is now an extensive epidemic. As far as my information extends, the practice of the high toned regular faculty in this form of disease has so far been worse, far worse than nothing!

The view we have taken of the subject before us in the preceding sketch, I hope will not be received as a budget of theoretical dreams. If the theory should be accounted incorrect, either in thought or expression, my appeal for its substantial validity and importance rests on practical demonstrations I have had much to do with this form of disease during our present sore visitation. Let me assure the reader, I have lost none. I have watched the symptoms of the malady in its commencement and progress—I have administered to the sick with good effect—I have reduced my ideas to as concise a form as I conveniently could do. I know the source of practice here prescribed to be

effectual in removing the complaint, and it is undeniably, strictly and purely Thomsonian. If you think my views worthy a place in the Recorder, they are cheerfully committed to your disposal.

With respectful consideration  
yours &c.

WILSON THOMSON.  
Lebanon, March 9th 1833.

\*It has been noticed that boiling water destroys the emetic qualities of lobelia and in this way it may be retained so as sometimes in conjunction with No. 2 to produce a laxative effect.—By giving injections cool, they may be retained longer and produce more copious discharges.—Ed.

TO THE REV. W. THOMPSON.

SIR.—It is with much pleasure we place your valuable communication concerning the SCARLATINA as it has appeared in your vicinity, before our readers. We hope many others will be induced to imitate your laudible example and enlarge the astonishing map of testimony that now sustains the Thomsonian cause. As for ourselves, our faith is strong and unwavering—The cloud of witnesses is becoming almost innumerable. The fell spirit of opposition under all its sinister contrivances and operations can not succeed. Truth like a mighty conqueror travels on triumphant.

It becomes the friends of the system to sound its gigantic march, and challenge the world to the combat. Dr. ROBINSON has well observed, "Let it be remembered, if this system of practice is true, it will have the peculiar blessing of the Almighty upon its side; because it brings the power, the benefits, and the beneficial results of a safe medicine, within the reach of the poor; into their dear distressed families, who often perish for the lack of means to procure medical aid! This simple benefit cannot fail of drawing down from heaven the peculiar blessing of Him, who bowed his majesty and left his throne and veiled his glories, to enter the world, and preach 'the gospel to the poor.'"

*For the Thomsonian Recorder.*

Messrs. Editors,

I presume it will be admitted by many, certainly by the physicians of every class, that defective decaying teeth, must be the cause, or occasion of more cases of disease than the world in general are aware of. It is well known to the faculty, and to many others that in respiration the atmospheric air undergoes a very material change in the lungs; there its oxygen is disengaged and imparted to the blood, by which its vital energy is probably increased. Our blood of course receives a portion of the air we breath, though in a decomposed state. From hence it is perfectly natural to conclude that the more pure, sweet and uncontaminated the better for our use. If unimpregnated with any offensive foetor, or deleterious quality the more suitable it is for respiration. The purer the air the more conducive of health.

This will readily appear by reference to certain circumstances: place a person for instance amidst the dense effluvia arising from a putrid and putrefying mass of vegetable and animal substances, as the decomposition and exhalation goes forward, the smell is offensive—we readily apprehend some evil consequence, and naturally realize that the floating vapour carries the seeds of disease upon its wings: a fear of sickness is produced. Now let me enquire, when teeth are decaying and rotting away in a persons mouth, so that their breath becomes loathsome to all who approach near enough to catch a snuff of the putrid exhalation, can people persuade themselves in such a situation that a disease engendering poison does not lurk in every breath they draw?

It may perhaps be said that there is a material difference between the decomposing state of vegetable and animal substances in their putrefying

process, and the mere decay of a tooth. True the volume of stench may be greater; but it must be recollected, that it is not a transient but a fixed, abiding and permanent evil that a tooth occasions. It is not only its immediate but enduring effects that should alarm our fears—the blood & all the fluids that go to the general nourishment of the system participate in the consequences. Those regions of the stomach &c. where digestion is performed must sustain an injury and all the organs of digestion become measurably impaired—a large portion of azote be absorbed into the system in the bronchial vessels of the lungs, the blood itself must share a measure of the taint, and the vital stream of life be poisoned at the fountain. Such an amount of *miasmata* existing or accumulating in the mouth, throat, stomach and lungs, as to give offence to others, cannot fail to have an insalubrious effect on the individual, who has the misfortune to be the personal reservoir of so much filth and putrefaction. Must not the consequence be something like fixing our residence adjacent to a putrefying carcase or in the vicinity of marsh miasmata?

The inference from the whole is, that if we would preserve our health, that among other means we should not neglect to keep our mouths and teeth effectually cleansed. It should be a matter of our daily attention. Our inducement may derive additional strength from the consideration of its agreeableness to ourselves, and the great addition to our agreeableness and good looks in the estimation of others to be derived from sound clean teeth and a sweet breath.

Some females are blessed with fascinating shape, and face almost divinely fair, but when they open their lips, (*dear lovely creatures!*) what a mouthful of rotten teeth, or, perhaps a few solitary, black, encrusted snags

and putrefying roots, where teeth once stood, present to view! Should the enrapturing charms on which we were gazing, entice us so near as to cast the respiring vapour issuing from their lungs upon our olfactories, oh! how disgusting. Their vile breath defeats the power of all their witching charms.

As a philanthropist I would suggest some friendly advice to all whom it may concern. If teeth are much decayed have them extracted. If they are but slightly affected have the decayed part separated and removed by a skilful and judicious dentist, who will know how to manage and give you sound advice. I would not recommend a travelling imposter who does not regard his responsibility but some gentleman of established reputation. The business of a dentist is mechanical, and the knowledge of his art must be practically acquired, as much as any other kind of mechanical business. A good workman should be consulted. and if he be an honest man he will wish to promote your comfort & convenience and to advance your individual happiness, and not to line his pocket by filching from you an extravagant demand for his services.

If a tooth has been so neglected that the calcarious incrustation adheres firmly, have that removed. To keep the mouth and teeth clean use a fine powder of the bark of the root of bayberry, or bayberry and Ohio Kercuma equal parts, with the assistance of a finger every night, but it need not be brushed out of the mouth or from the crevices of the teeth until the next morning, then take a soft brush and with a glass of salt and water moderately warm cleanse them well. After eating be sure that no particles of food be left between the teeth. To this advice, the latter part of which will apply to those possessing sound teeth, and sweet breath, I would add one word more,

and impress it if possible, in a manner that it would never be forgotten, it is simply this, *dispense with the use of calomel forever.*

### CINCINNATUS.

In addition to CINCINNATUS' observations we would remark, that rubbing the teeth in white ashes, or in the powder made of a crust of bread burned to a coal, or *Carbo Ligni* (the common charcoal) are all good to cleanse the teeth—pearlash dissolved in water, is an excellent mouthwater for foul teeth and bad breath. But of all the tooth powders in use none exceeds the Lobelia leaves reduced to the finest powder. Lobelia and bayberry combined or equal parts of bayberry, lobelia and Kercuma may be used with advantage night and morning, after which the mouth may be cleansed with salt and water as Cincinnatus prescribes or a solution of pearlash in water. In addition to his remarks we would observe, that as decayed teeth may affect the stomach, that a dispeptic stomach, may send up injurious fumes to injure the teeth and produce the calcarious incrustation, as soot accumulates from an abundance of smoke in a chimney. In these cases the stomach should be cleansed with an emetic—digestion should be promoted—pearlash and Kercuma may both be used occasionally to sweeten and strengthen the stomach: then we may with propriety attend to the teeth. Children whose digestive powers are impaired by the foolish indulgence of parents, who can never deny them any thing they crave, who feed them daily on sugar, sweet cakes, candy and sweetmeats to the utmost of their wishes, will have rotten teeth until they rot out. No attention that can be paid to the teeth in such cases can preserve them, while the stomach is neglected or abused. Americans are notorious for bad teeth. The cause has roused the attention of philo

sophic pens. They have not given a satisfactory solution of the difficulty. But the Americans eat more animal food, & drink more hot tea and coffee, & the mass of our population use more sugar than the common people of Europe. Here these luxuries of life are more easily obtained than under the despotic sway of European governments. Being easily obtained they will be more extensively used. Of the result there remains no reasonable doubt. Fuel being more easy to obtain warm food and drinks will be more universal. Hot bread is much more common where daily baked in a family, than in cities where it is almost entirely obtained from the bakers. In no country on earth are ardent spirits so easily obtained or so extensively used in proportion to the population as in the United States, we may defy the European continent to point to any country where dyspepsy is as common as it is west of the Atlantic. Ardent spirits produce hepatic obstructions and derangement, paralyze the ducts of the liver, occasion chronic inflammations, Abscesses, Tubercles, Hydatids, Gallstones, and a long et cetera: who can wonder that dyspepsy should prevail to so great an extent, and that a morbid condition of stomach, liver and lungs, should send up a fume tainted with the crudities of a bad digestion, producing a deposition of a corrosive tartarous incrustation on the teeth. The morbid condition of the stomach will affect the teeth; rotten teeth, will in turn affect the stomach, and in a mutual interchange of injuries the work of destruction goes on, and in many instances some mortal malady supervenes and death winds up the scene.

The fetid breath of the intemperate is notorious, "composed" says Dr. Rush, "of every thing that is offensive in putrid animal matter." He also mentions "frequent and disgusting belchings." Dr Haller, as we find him

quoted by Rush, relates the case of a notorious drunkard having been suddenly destroyed in consequence of the vapour discharged from his stomach by breathing, accidentally taking fire by coming in contact with the flame of a candle. A number of similar instances of human combustion occasioned by intemperance are recorded by responsible writers. Such an active fetid vapour, rising habitually through the mouth and its crudest part being retained and adhering to the teeth, must seriously injure them. Some constitutions may be so firm as to sustain the assaults of the ravager without these morbid effects becoming immediately manifest, but sooner or later these consequences will arrive to a greater or less degree, with all who are habitually intemperate. Among all the causes of rotten teeth and stinking breath among us independent Americans, may be named another source, that is, the very universal use that has been made of mercury has made direful destruction among teeth. The tendency of mercury to injure the teeth is universally known, and the abuse of men by the promiscuous and universal use of mercury every possible form of disease has probably never been carried to the same extent among any people as in these U. States. Men of sixty can distinctly recollect when teeth were not so generally defective. The present generation now arrived to the active stage of life, and from them down to those in their juvenile years, present a fearful confirmation of the ravages of that pernicious mineral drug on human teeth—"The employment of this metal has become," says Dr. Thatcher, "not only familiar in the hands of every practitioner, but receives the sanction of the highest medical authorities in our country; nay, some even dignified it with the appellation of specific, in fevers of a contagious character. For MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY it has been a favorite agent with a certain class of reputable physicians in New-England, for the cure of fevers of almost every description." In every state in the American Union has this mercurialising mania prevailed—"grown with our growth, and strengthened with our strength." The time has arrived for this deadly

march of imposition and abuse to receive a check. Temperance societies have our best wishes for their ultimate success and triumph, we mean ever to co-operate with them in bearing an uniform testimony against intemperance of every description. As Thomsonians we would invite the candid attention of all reflecting men to aid our efforts in suppressing the use of this mineral poison that not only rots the teeth, but ruins the constitutions & destroys annually the lives of thousands! In conclusion we heartily accord with our friend Cincinnatus in his pathetic exhortation, "dispense with the use of calomel forever!" At parting suffer us to add one word and say, "dispense with the use of ardent spirits and mercury forever!!" If you would preserve your teeth and good health, use no calomel for medicine, no ardent spirits for excitement, nor tobacco for amusement. These fashionable substances, have a pernicious & destructive influence in society and ought to be banished from the abodes of civilized man.

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE RECORDER.

SIR.—I have just risen from a perusal of Dr Howard's first volume of his Improved System of Botanic Medicine; and I assure you it has afforded me much and sincere pleasure, though I will candidly admit that my pleasure was not unalloyed with regret. I had previously read with much care and attention the Narrative of "Dr Thomson's life and practice, together with his new Guide to health." I had made use of his medicine in some cases, with astonishing success. I had fondly hoped that the great principles of life and health, and the true system for restoring their impaired energies, had been discovered. I had seen systems succeed each other, and theories chase down theories, until I had lost all confidence in Medical practice. When therefore I got hold of Thomson's system, I eagerly examined its nature and tendency. I was delighted with the main principles of the theory. I found its practice consonant with life, and at last felt disposed to think, that I had found a resting place. But, at this crisis, it was announced that Horton Howard, was about publishing an "Improved sys-

tem of Botanic Medicine!" I knew that Horton Howard had far more experience in the efficacy of Thomsonian remedies, than I had myself. I knew that he was intimately acquainted with its principles, and was grieved to hear, that such a man found the Thomsonian system so defective as to require an improvement, which should place the practice on another foundation; even so widely different as to entitle its author to a patent, "without in the least infringing upon Thomson's Rights."—With these feelings I set myself down to peruse the work in question and I read it with the most assiduous attention.

In the first place I was pleased to find that Dr Wm. Hance was in reality the author of the work, for I had previously entertained the highest opinion of this gentleman's candor, sound judgment, and correct medical practice.—Hence I was prepossessed in favor of what might follow.

I then attentively traced the author through his view of Anatomy and Physiology. Most of this I found to be strictly Thomsonian. Indeed the only variations which I discovered were of so slight a character, and to me so feebly supported, that I was more than ever established in the Thomsonian Theory. I know that Dr Thomson is illiterate; the world knows it, and Dr Thomson makes no pretensions to Literature.—Hence it happens that his language is not always the most happy to convey his ideas. But as I said before, the theory as laid down by Dr Thomson, is, as I believe, in its main principles correct, and is amply supported by Dr Hance, or Dr Howard or both. Thus far then, I was pleased to find my belief in Thomsonianism established on a firmer footing than ever.

In proceeding on in the perusal of this first volume, I was if possible still more delighted, for I found the author, when treating of the indications of cure, and the system of practice necessary to be adopted for the removal of disease, to be THOROUGHLY, STRICTLY, and ENTIRELY, Thomsonian. Here then my anxiety vanished. I found that my preconceived opinion of the merits of Thomson's system, was fully sustained by him who had assumed the character



of a reformer. It is true I have not yet thoroughly perused the remainder of the work, but I shall not neglect to do so, and possibly I may send you the result of my further research. One thing I know, however, and that is, that I want nothing better than Thomson's practice to build with, upon Howard's foundation, and I cannot conceive how he can so far vary from Thomson's system, as not to touch his rights, and not get away from what he calls his own theory. To raise the inward heat, as Thomson expresses it, or create a stimulus as Howard has it, both give pure unmixed Cayenne. To cleanse the stomach, and restore the digestive powers, both give Lobelia. The same class of astringent and tonic medicines are used by both, and in precisely similar circumstances. The steam bath is used by both for the same purpose. Where then is the improvement? I admit willingly, that in the use of the pen, and in the flow of language, Dr Hance is far the superior of Dr Thomson, but I shall much mistake the result, if it shall not after all prove true, that Dr Thomson's plain, unaffected, and familiar style is not more acceptable to a numerous class of readers, and better calculated to be useful, than this work, filled with technical terms, and polished periods.

I said in the beginning, the pleasure I found in the perusal of this volume, was alloyed by regret. I regret, that self-interest should have made it necessary for H. Howard to attempt to deprive Thomson of his just rights. I admit that Mr Howard had the right to publish books and sell medicine of his own compounding, but I cannot conceive how any conscientious man can say that in this work Mr Howard has left Dr Thomson's rights untouched.—Who, I asked myself as I closed the book, taught Mr Howard the use of Lobelia, Cayenne, Bayberry, the Steam Bath &c. &c., the very pillars and sole foundation on which he rests. Again let me propose that these be taken away from the improvement and let us see what will be left. I learn that in his second volume he has introduced many compounds, slightly varied from Thomson's, but all of them based upon the same foundation, prescribed for the

same complaints, and administered under precisely similar circumstances.—I close this communication therefore, by repeating that I am rejoiced to find Thomson's system needs no improvement, and I regret, that for the purpose of self interest only, it has been deemed necessary to infringe upon his rights under the specious name of reform.

INQUIRER.

WATERVLIET, APRIL 10, 1833.

Messrs. Jarvis Pike & Co.

I am much pleased to find you advocating a cause which seems to promise so much interest to the present and future generations, if rightly understood and faithfully attended to. It is well calculated to remove the veil which has concealed from man the nature and cause of disease, and the best means of removing it; and to plant the true principles of Medical Science, which will increase and grow till its advocates shall become stronger than the Strong Man which has been armed against them. Whose mighty bulwarks have been ingeniously contrived to secure the aggrandizement of its constructors; but this mighty fabric has already begun to crumble to dust before the voice of the people; and probably will continue to dissolve and break in pieces until their shall be no place found for it.

I have given the Thomsonian System a fair test for nearly five years; and the contrast between this and the old System of practice, is sufficiently apparent to satisfy me of its superior advantage. The uncertainty of the old practice from my own experience, and from all that I could gather from Medical authority, since the days of Hippocrates, to the time that I became acquainted with the Thomsonian System, was a sufficient inducement for me to venture to give it a fair trial; but not without due caution against indulging any very high expectations, of finding that success which the Narrative and Guide to Health seemed to promise. For I had long been acquainted with the high sounding recommendations of new theories and systems of Medical practice, and of new discovered medicines which would do wonders in the healing art, and cure almost every disease; which were only calculated to

disappoint, perplex and vex the practitioner; this taught me to be cautious, lest I should again be disappointed. But I was again disappointed in administering Dr Thomson's medicines, as he has directed in his *Guide to Health*, for they frequently accomplished more than I had calculated; and the speedy relief from keen distress which the medicine seemed to produce, exceeded any thing that I had ever witnessed. I must conclude from what I have seen, that Dr Thomson's statement respecting the success of his System of practice, is not overrated; the truth of which has been realized by many, and perhaps by all who have persevered with that intrepid courage, confidence and good judgment, which he seemed to possess; but for the want of these qualifications, the system has suffered loss. The good policy of the convention is well calculated to do away many errors, and establish this System on a respectable basis; which will crown that respectable body with a name, that will be applauded with gratitude, when Paracelsus and all the mineralogists who have followed his example, shall sink into oblivion, or be remembered only for the mischief they have done.

L. W.

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## THE RECORDER.

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### COLUMBUS,

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SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1833.

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A communication over the signature of Dr Samuel Robinson having appeared in the *Eclectic* No 11. we give it a passing but respectful notice. We would just observe that we are fully sensible that a wide and unexplored field still remains for botanic investigation. We have no doubt that he suggested to Mr Howard, "*The System must go forward.*" We have no doubt that for pecuniary reward he would furnish every facility in his power. How far he may have done so we have no curiosity to inquire. The progress of botanic knowledge does not affect Dr Thomson's system of practice. The remedies on which he chiefly depends have been selected and

faithfully tested. With these peculiar and specific remedies the most extraordinary cures have been effected among the sick. The same remedies are the main dependence, the sheet anchor of all professed reformers on his system. Let botanic knowledge advance as it will, it does not destroy the efficacy of Thomsonian remedies. Of Mr Howard's qualifications to improve on Dr Thomson's practice by rejecting any of his remedies or substituting others in their place, the world must judge. If he has given "more attention to the subject than many others," there are many who have bestowed equal attention, though not exactly with the same selfish views.

This multiplying of remedies, "*ad infinitum,*" may carry a consequential and imposing air, but in practice it has a pernicious effect. We cannot suspect that Dr Robinson's congratulations have been designed to make unfavorable impressions in relation to the number of Thomsonian remedies. We call to our mind his interrogation Lect. 14. "When the proximate cause of disease affects the whole system, why may not a single remedy affect the whole system in removing disease." Indeed, it is the fewness, simplicity, yet undeniable efficacy of Thomsonian remedies that we admire. We recollect who has said, "Men may reason about uncertainties and read volumes full of speculations, but when the simple matter of fact is wanting; when there is no obvious and specified principle; it is a meek sail through oceans of vapour." "These new remedies," says Dr Robinson in a certain place, "Are in a high degree, powerful and safe to remove all these complaints," referring to a preceding enumeration of maladies, "at a very small expense. They possess an energy which seems to communicate new life to the system, and renovate the feeble, fainting powers of nature."

The most extensive, systematic progress in scientific botany, would never have conducted any man to the discoveries made by Dr Thomson. They owe their origin to an extraordinary and unprecedented combination of incidents. We conclude therefore with Dr Robinson "that the most formidable

objection against the Thomsonian remedies is answered."

But we must notice that Dr Robinson attended the convention. He was elected Secretary, accepted the appointment, was appointed on a committee referred to. His services were dispensed with on the succeeding day to give leisure to prepare a lecture for the benefit of the Thomsonian cause. A Lecture was, accordingly delivered. It was decidedly Thomsonian, and gave general satisfaction. True, after the Lecture was delivered in the house of assembly, "He sat no more in the convention till the close." For the convention immediately adjourned.—Dr Robinson mingled companionably throughout the session with the members. After the convention closed & the proceedings were published, Dr Robinson was in frequent conference in our office, on friendly and social terms, without any suggestion or distant insinuation, of dissatisfaction, at the circumstantial formality of adding his name, just as he says he was invited to a seat, "as a mere compliment." His exceptions have never been suspected to exist until the return of Mr Howard from down the river.

We highly appreciate the rare talents of Dr Robinson. We will only suggest a wish that he may always possess that patriotic unyielding integrity, that temptation can never make to falter. The unanimity of the convention in all their proceedings, left no room to suspect that a dissenting voice would be heard. In fact he does not veto our own sentiments by saying, "In a field so extensive as medical botany, mind may follow mind, in pushing discoveries till time shall end, and still before the eye there will spread out an unmeasurable distance." But reader, "let mind follow mind," until the funeral pile of nature burns, and who will discover that Dr Thomson's remedies for disease, are not the most useful within the knowledge of man? Who will discover that these should be set aside and others substituted in their stead?

N. B. The appending the names of the committee to the report is merely a matter of form. Several names that were present and acting it is recollec-

ted have been unintentionally omitted. None are retained but such as were named to fill the same, but we think two if not three whose names are retained were not present at the final passage of the proceedings and the adjournment of the convention. Several who were equally respectable were omitted, no record being made of the filling up of the committee at its last sitting. The names retained were appended, either personally, or by order, at the close, with the exceptions alluded to. With men of sound reason no farther explanation can be deemed necessary. We had intended to have abandoned all controversy with the Eclectic and its partizans, but the puddle is always in a storm and we are compelled to notice their railery. In all such cases we shall be as concise as possible, consistent with that truth and justice that calls for fair play.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

A respectable friend at Zanesville in a letter dated March 28th ult. informs us that in that place and its immediate vicinity there has been much sickness through the preceding season. The scarlet fever, measles, and whooping cough have prevailed with extensive mortality among children. These, says he "have been very fatal in this place. I think about fifty children have died this winter and spring. Some families have buried as many as three children who have died of the epidemic. Those who employed the Thomsonian Doctors all recovered—many who had no physician got well. Thomsonianism rings like a peal of thunder in the ears of our regular faculty. Two of our children had the scarlet fever very bad; one has recovered and the other is fast recovering. We had no calomel doctors in our family. I am more and more pleased with the Thomsonian system. We have proved it in our own family, and in a number of other families where we have been called in by our neighbors. Mr Howard's books we know but little about and care less for their fate. We find Thomson's system answers our purpose well—by his rules and means we can remove disease and make the sick sound and well, and what want we

more. We feel happily contented to adhere firmly to our old friend and patron, and can not feel disposed to encourage those who would put down his system to put up some new project of their own. We have a knowledge of some of these mighty schemes and are prepared to be on our guard, wide awake and watching!!"

#### TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

HUMANITUS has been received and will appear in our next.—Also Dr TALBOTT's communication and many other interesting documents. All shall be respectfully attended to soon as possible. We cordially congratulate our friends on the triumphant progress of the Thomsonian system far and near.

#### CHOLERA AT HAVANNA.

BALTIMORE, April 6th. The Fan-Fan, arrived in this port yesterday, has brought deplorable accounts respecting the progress of the Cholera at Havana. From the 24th of February till the 24th of March, the number of deaths from this disease amounted to FIVE THOUSAND,—one thousand whites and four thousand blacks; and on the day previous to the sailing of the Fan-Fan, and for several days previous the number of deaths each day has been five hundred. The Captain General had issued an order that all the artillery should be fired at sun rise each day, in hopes of purifying the atmosphere; and such was the general consternation and alarm that the clerks, draymen, &c. refused to attend to any business.

The following persons are authorized and requested to act as Agents for the RECORDER.

#### OHIO.

Robert Hewes, *Hamilton*.  
John Odell & Dr. Tibbits, *Cincinnati*.  
Dr. S. C. Lomis, *Eden Seneca co*.  
Joel Thomson, *Shalersville Portage co*.  
Dr. I. P. Tibbits, *Warren Jefferson co*.  
R. H. Goe, *Mansfield*.  
Dr. Wm. Hart, *Dayton*.  
Dr. E. Somers, *Brunswick Medina co*.  
A. Critchfield, *Carthage Licking co*.  
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*dolph Co.*

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Dr. J. L. Craft, *St. Louis*.

Our friends are requested to forward us the names of persons suitable for agents in such places as they may deem proper where none are appointed. Our eastern agents, where it is more convenient, can remit the amount of their subscriptions to Dr. Thomson, Boston Mass., whose receipt will be the same as ours.

### ANOTHER THOMSONIAN OR BOTANIC PRACTITIONER.

"Prove all things and hold fast that which is good."

### THE AMERICAN FRIENDLY BOTANIC INFIRMARY.

**T**HE Advertiser takes this method of informing the sick and afflicted of every grade, that he has opened an Infirmary, upon botanical principles, in which they can receive medical attendance, and board upon reasonable terms, to suit the circumstances or times of the patients, or if they prefer it they will be attended at their places of residence. This Infirmary is founded entirely on botanic principles to the exclusion of *Minerals* and the *Shedding of blood*.

He is also prepared to administer the cold, warm, tepid, hot, vapour, shower and Medicated Baths. "To those who are past the meridian of life," says Dr Darwin, "and have dry skins and begin to be emaciated, the warm bath, for half an hour twice a week, I believe to be eminently serviceable in retarding the advances of age." Acting upon this principle, this learned physician relates that when Dr Franklin was in England, he recommended the latter to

use a warm bath twice a week; a practice which he afterwards continued till his death. He will at all times keep on hand a regular supply of Thomsonian Botanic Medicine. He has on hand a quantity of the best *African Cayenne Pepper and Cloves*, for medicinal and family use. Also, Dr Thomson's Family Rights; Dr Robiusion's Lectures and Dr W. Beach's American Practice of Medicine, for sale by

JOHN ROSE, M. F. B. S.  
 No. 20 Harrison st. Baltimore.

N. B. The subscriber would inform his friends and the public that he has engaged a gentleman from New York to assist him who has been regularly educated in the various branches of the healing art as taught in the *old schools* and at the *Reformed Medical College* in New York, having had considerable Hospital, Infirmary and private practice in the city of New York he feels himself fully adequate to discharge his duty both as a physician and surgeon.

Select Lectures on Midwifery as soon as a sufficient number of Students can be obtained by Dr J. T. Lockwood.

**T**HE meeting of the Prince Edward branch of the friendly Botanic Society, will take place regularly at Mr G. King's on the first Friday in June, September, December and March.

MILLER W. McCRAW,  
 Corresponding Sec.  
 Prince Edward co. Va.

### PUBLIC NOTICE.

COLUMBUS, Feb. 7, 1833.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the partnership heretofore existing between RUFUS FERRIS, THOMAS JOHNSON, HIRAM PLATT and JARVIS PIKE, under the title of the firm of Pike, Platt & Co., General Agents of Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, is this day dissolved: Mr. Platt having, by mutual consent of all the parties concerned, withdrawn from the firm.

The business will, in future, be conducted by

JARVIS PIKE,  
 RUFUS FERRIS,  
 THOS. JOHNSON,  
 Gen'l Ag'ts of Dr. S. THOMSON.

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER,

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"

"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HERSEY, *Senior Editor*.

VOL. I.]

COLUMBUS, MAY 4, 1833.

[No. 15.]

## FOR THE RECORDER.

The medical system of Dr Samuel Thomson has spread with astonishing rapidity through these United States. Even Europe has felt something of the salutary effects and benign influences of his discoveries. Such has been the unprecedented success of the botanic practice, not only when Dr Thomson has personally administered his own remedies to the sick, but the same means, when administered by others, agreeably to his prescriptions, have produced equally astonishing and happy results.

The doctor's design has ever been to introduce the knowledge of his system into every intelligent family, and to convince the world, that being in possession of medicine suitable for the removal of disease, that the principle qualification necessary for a successful use of it, is to have a tolerable share of good common sense, sustained by a spirit of patience and perseverance.—The mind and conduct need only to be regulated by that calm and lucid discretion, indispensable for the successful prosecution of the ordinary concerns of life.

Dr Thomson's NARRATIVE of his life and discoveries, his NEW GUIDE to health, and all his writings, abundantly evince the interesting fact, and the experience of thousands fully demonstrate the correctness of his opinions.

Many have objected to the use of Thomsonian medicine, because, says the objector "How should any one know how to give or take an emetic to cleanse a human stomach, who has never seen the insides of a man in all his life, and does not know the shape, size & mechanism thereof? would not the attempt be rash and dangerous?" This objection will not bear examination.—It is so fragile and futile in its nature that we cannot feel its force. You might with equal propriety decline the daily use of food or the preparation thereof by unclassical hands. The

same kind of reasoning will apply with equal propriety in both cases.

An additional argument in favor of starvation, unless prevented by classical skill, may be derived, from your very limited knowledge of the fundamental laws of the animal economy, the science of life, particularly the great and important principles of digestion, the functional operations of the stomach and its appendages, to effect that change upon the food or aliment, by which it is converted into chyme and chyle and distributed through the system for the purpose of nutrition.

Experience and observation teach men how to choose their food and how to prepare it for use. If a man woult only prefers poison to good and wholesome food, no skill he might have in the preparation could render the deleterious article innocent, nutritious and healthful.

It is preposterous in the extreme for any to imagine that Arsenic, Opium, Mercury or any of the mineral or vegetable poisons, will become innocent, safe and salutary medicine, because, they are administered by a Regular Physician.

Can a diploma from a medical University extract the poison from the serpent's tooth, or cause the bite of a rabid animal to be indur'd without injury? Have our classical graduated regulars with all their boasted skill been able to stay the ravages of the cold plague or yellow fever, or arrest the deadly march of cholera in our country?

It has certainly been reserved, a distinguishing trait in the rise and progress of Thomsonianism, that it has fallen to the lot of Dr Thomson to stain the pride of learned quackery. He has removed maladies of the most mortal description, and arrested the deadly progress of the wide wasting pestilence that threatened to depopulate our country. The facts are faithfully recorded, not only by the press, but in the grateful recollec-

tions of those who have personally experienced the benefits of his discoveries. Oral tidings shall be transmitted from parents to children, from sufferers relieved, to their friends and neighbors, and the glad tidings shall cheer the hearts of long succeeding generations. Men of science and extensive erudition are flocking to the botanic standard, and are rapidly filling up the long ranks of his disciples. His most unlettered converts have been enabled in following his prescription with fidelity, to effect cures of the most distressing and terrific forms of disease, in thousands of instances, where the most accomplished of the regular faculty have utterly failed. We have seen the sweet smile of hope gathering on the visage recently covered with despair, and the rapid spark of declining life rekindling among the chilly fogs of invading death. We have witnessed the collapsed, pulseless, speechless, torpid, lived, shrivelled, and convulsed CHOLERA PATIENT shouting on the brink of the grave a thorough triumph over that desolating plague.

Dr. Thomson, like many others, who have ranked high among the most eminent benefactors and distinguished ornaments of mankind, has risen from humble obscurity, by honorable and unambitious efforts to fill an exalted niche in the temple of fame. But few reformers have ever had to contend with equally formidable opposition, and fewer still have lived to approximate so nearly to the consummation of their laudable designs. His is not the ephemeral triumph of a rash adventurer, but the victory of a philosophic conqueror.—The thrones of despots may crumble in mighty ruin, nations and empires rise and fall, but wherever reason has power to combat with falsehood, error and delusion, so long shall the fame of his discoveries be sounded to the world, and common sense and honesty gather round the botanic standard. Unborn generations shall wreath immortal honors for his future grave, when the direful dog-star of implacable persecution shall have gone down in leathern waves, and the tongue of slander become silent in the night of death.

Happy for these United States our inheritance has fallen to us in pleasant

places. The shackles of despotic power are broken. The magic spell of civil and ecclesiastical oppression no longer triumphs in a general degradation of this enlightened and magnanimous community. The Martyrs of the revolution achieved a triumph that far transcends their most heart-cheering anticipations. The tyrant's gripe no longer controls the freedom of the press.—True, some petty despots in miniature have laid some disgraceful restraints upon its powerful operations: The press has ever been a troublesome proposer to the oppressors of mankind.—It has wrought miracles west of the Atlantic that has alarmed tyrants and astonished the world. Privileged orders must every where decline. Literary combinations vainly devise misdeeds and form iniquity by law, they cannot command the patronage of a people sufficiently enlightened, not to be hoodwinked and gulled by the deception of their false and delusive pretensions.

Beef stakes and boiled fowles relishes as well and nourish as effectually, prepared by an experienced though illiterate cook in an obscure cabin, as if they were prepared by classical hands in a college hall, under the immediate superintendence of a learned professor. Lobelia will cleanse the stomach as certainly, and an injection will operate as effectually, administered by a humble domestic, as when given by a diplomatic regular physician.

Every intelligent honest man in this land of freedom, must feel himself nobly inclined, to banish from every head and every heart those bewildering superstitions in which the world has been so long and so unhappily involved.

Ignorance has ever been disposed to invite insult and court degradation.—Hence arises that foolish veneration for the marvelous, and the blind homage paid to those who, under the specious garb of mystery practice their wondrous tricks on popular credulity. From this fruitful source of superstition we behold a wondering benighted multitude, even in civilized & christian countries, yea, in our own country, who are lagging a century behind the progress of what may be announced common information. Such are they, who are constantly ascribing the phenomena atten-

ding Epilepsy, St. Vitus' dance, Hysterical affections, and all the singular forms of disease with which they happen not to be particularly acquainted, to supernatural causes, to witch craft, to daemons, sideral influence & a long et cetera. We often see & hear of such vulgar, irrational superstitious people travelling long and tedious journies, spending their time, money and labor, and immolating their claims to common sense, to consult with star-gazers, or with more man degrading superstitions confidence, applying to water wizards, who surreptitiously and wickedly pretend to discover, and accurately to discriminate all the varied forms of disease, by looking wisely or smelling, according to art, at a phial of urine.

Even professors of religion, men who have assumed the high responsibilities of ministers of the gospel, professing to teach others the way of righteousness, have enrolled themselves among the necromantic legion of the black art. For the love of money, or that they might be accounted wiser than others, they have been found guilty of such a base dereliction of all correct principle, as to habitually insinuate into the minds of their stupid deluded followers, that they are endowed with some extraordinary faculty, or supernatural gift, so as to discover and distinguish every varied form of disease, "flesh and blood is heir to," from an incipient, catarrhal affections, to yellow fever, cholera and apoplexy, by a mysterious urinary inspection.

Every person of reflection might know, that a baser kind of downright, barefaced, impudent hypocrisy never occupied the mind of any man. The preaching of such IMPOSTERS reminds one, of the awkward position of the devil, attempting to rebuke sin.

Heaven forbid that any Thomsonian should ever so degrade his intellectual, or so debase his moral faculties, as to wander back to the days of necromancy, astrology, and the diabolical dissimulation and witchery of the water wizards.

It has not been the sceptical impressions on the mind of Dr Thomson in relation to the christian revelation, but genuine philosophical reasoning on the subject, that has excited in his

mind, such an utter and unequivocal aversion and abhorrence of all such farcical 'mummeries, and outrageous abuses of common sense.

To christians, who wish to maintain an appearance of consistency, we should apprehend, very little need to be said. The impositions of which we speak are generally practiced by persons of moderate information, who are superstitiously disposed to be credulous, or dishonestly inclined to impose on the empty minded credulity of others. We have known several popular characters of this description who could neither write or read a syllable, not even in their maternal tongue.— We have known the sick, the lame, the halt & the blind flocking from hundreds of miles around them for medical advice and prescription. Strange infatuation! Among other qualification for these fraudulent pursuits, the urinary wizard, commonly, possesses a full share of low, trickish cunning, and a shrewd kind of mother wit to aid him in the prosecution of his delusive projects. We have no doubt that individuals may be found, so wedded to their own delusion that they sometimes vainly dream that they are consequential beings—that there is some truth in their lying vanities, deceiving and being deceived.

How soon such vague and vulgar hallucinations would vanish from men's minds, if they could only be induced scrupulously to inquire into the natural relation existing between causes and their effects. They would then ask, whence is it that these conjuring gentlemen have acquired this unusual and extraordinary knowledge, this secret, supernatural and astonishing information? Why is not this wonderful kind of knowledge reduced to some tangible shape, or so systemized that it can be readily taught to others of equal or superior genius and talents both natural and acquired? If they possess some real knowledge of such an unusual and extraordinary a character, a genuine useful and important art, why all this mighty secrecy? Why not come to the light? Why not like other noble benefactors of mankind communicate their knowledge for the benefit of the world? Have they no commiseration for the

miseries of suffering humanity? ask we not with propriety, has heaven reserved its most extraordinary, marvelous gifts for the exclusive benefit of an isolated few, and those of the most suspicious cast of all the vagrant materials of which the great mass of human society is formed? We urge the enquiry, why all this studiousness of concealment? The answer is obvious; this feigned secrecy, this veil of mysticism is assumed for the more effectual hiding of their real ignorance. Weak and vacillating minds have the vanity to wish to be accounted wise, without the labor and application requisite for the acquirement of real wisdom. The hypocrite shrinks at the mere thought of detection, and will not come to the light of truth for fear of exposure, and the execrations that must follow. This accounts satisfactorily for the deep impenetrable clouds they strive to draw round them like a curtain, and the impervious darkness in which they wish to dwell.

This medical legerdemain is undoubtedly a profession to which no honest man will make the most distant pretension.

The vanity of being reputed wise as before suggested, or an inordinate love of money that will not hesitate at any means of obtaining it, must constitute the principle motives that induce men to pursue such a deceptive course.

This medical fortune telling, these secret arts, tricks and enchantments, according to the christian scriptures, are the immediate subjects of a special divine prohibition. The book we are taught to venerate speaks expressly, "Hearken not to your diviners, your dreamers, your enchanters, your sorcerers, they prophecy a lie unto you," again, "Regard not them who have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards to be defiled with them," "ye shall not use enchantments, nor observe times," "Be not dismayed at the signs of HEAVEN for the heathen are dismayed at them." It is useless to multiply quotation. Neither Jew, Christian, or Infidel can have any confidence in such contemptible impositions as are practiced by the order of men to which we allude, until they sacrifice their reason at the shrine of the most mean

low-lived, bewildering superstition that ever disgraced any of the human family. Persons capable of an obsequious confidence in the insolent pretensions of such abusers of mankind, are more fully prepared to become the disciples of the wretched fooleries of mormanism, than intelligent consistent christians or rational and honest Thomsonians.

Reader, Dr Thomson wishes you to read his work, and reflect for yourself. He wishes you to give plain, simple, honest common sense fair play. Examine then his system with candor and impartiality, that you may become your own physician and protect yourself and family from impostors whether learned or ignorant. If you would be a successful Thomsonian pay strict attention to that invaluable information, it has been the ambition of his life to discover, and the glory of hoary headed years most freely to communicate.

The plainness and simplicity of his instructions, his unadorned and artless style, that always brings the reader to an understanding of the point in hand, is not calculated to please the fastidious taste of those who delight in mystery and have other aims than truth. His remedies are few but judiciously selected. In the removal of disease he maintain a reputation that has never been exceeded. No honest experienced Thomsonian will dare attempt to dispense with them. Whatever new remedies he may become acquainted with, will never lessen his esteem for Thomson's original discoveries. Among all earthly means for the removal of disease, with which he is or may be acquainted these will constitute the principal basis of his medical hopes. Among the various forms of disease known in this quarter of our globe, his system of practice has proved the safest and surest yet known among men. He has laid a broad foundation for the great, the wise and the good to build upon, but remove the Thomsonian foundation, knock away the corner stones the master builder in botanic practice has laid, and what will all the motley tribe of reformation builders do?

These are points worthy the deep and solemn reflection of all who are acquainted with the Thomsonian prac-



rice. On this foundation stand fast and smile at the fell spirit of opposition howling on a hell of storms.

### HONESTUS.

For the Thomsonian Recorder.

MESSRS. EDITORS:

In looking over the Recorder [No. 12,] I noticed several communications containing important facts with regard to the Thomsonian System; and believing as I firmly do, that at such a time as this, when we have to oppose the Goliath of Medical Science, learned ignorance and early prejudices, that it becomes every man's duty to lay before the public all the facts with regard to the subject in dispute in his possession, I present you with the following which have fallen under my own personal observation within two years past. I was once taught to believe that the Mineral Doctors, were a sort of privileged characters, and consequently entitled to all that they had a mind to charge for their services, whether useful or not; and also that if Providentially I should recover from a dangerous illness under their treatment, all praise was due to the Doctor, but if I should die that it was the will of Heaven and of course no wonder I was not cured.

Under these impressions I have employed medical doctors in three different attacks of fever, and in no one instance have I escaped three or four weeks severe suffering without being able to sit up five minutes at a time. To these three cases of my own, I might add many more that occurred in my family, but the above will answer my purpose. In each of these cases my family physician had the advantage of being called at an early stage of the disease, and in no one instance has he ever been able to perform a cure; the assistance of others of his own choosing notwithstanding.

I, like many others, had imbibed strong prejudices against Dr. Thomson's System, without knowing any

thing about it except what I heard from enemies. But I hope I shall long remember with gratitude the day that his invaluable work fell into my hands: suffice to say, I immediately bought the right for myself and family, and have tested its efficacy in numerous instances. Shortly after buying the right I was again seized with a dangerous illness, and notwithstanding the entreaties of several of my friends, I determined that no regular physician should treat the disease in which I had before suffered so much from the use of their minerals. Unable to prescribe for myself, and no Thomsonian within thirty miles, I suffered under the disease nine days; at which time it assumed, as it always had done before, a very dangerous character, and it was as usual with regard to myself, I expected that I would die. It was now highly necessary that something efficient should be done, and accordingly the nearest Thomsonian was sent for, and to the utter astonishment of all (for many were watching but not for good) in 48 hours after his arrival my disease was extinct.

Now fellow citizens here was a fair test, the same patient, the same disease, and the same season of the year; and mark the difference. In the first three cases my bill amounted to \$43,60 in the last it amounted to \$5,00, my former physician lived almost within call of my door.

I would now ask does not Thomson's System at least deserve an investigation before we proceed to condemn it upon the mere ipsidixit of its determined opponents? If the above is not conclusive in all cases, it certainly was enough so to convince some, who had the privilege of observation, at the time of its occurrence; but this is not the only instance in which we have seen its superiority fully demonstrated. Why did A. F. M \* \* \* M. D. refuse to treat a Mr. Smith for a chronic diarrhea? Was it because

he really did not know what to do for him? as he said, or did he designingly let slip a case that promised a goodly reward? and yet this very case was successfully treated, and a cure performed in three days by a Thomsonian. Why did not Dr. B——, and others, cure a severe nervous headache in the town of N——, seeing they had nine years experience in this very case? and yet this very disease was removed for the first time by a Thomsonian in 24 hours, and has not since recurred. These are facts, and can be proved on the most satisfactory evidence at any hazard either the above gentlemen may challenge.

But notwithstanding the success which we have met with, and the repeated instances in which we have proved the superiority of the Thomsonian remedies, it has been our misfortune to endure persecution, and that where we least deserved it. Can any man tell why this is so? if the Thomsonians are quacks, as they are said to be, why all this fuss and hatred towards them? A quack cannot long balance upon the needle point of his hypocritical profession. Again, if Thomson's System is worth nothing, why have physicians of good repute in every age of the world advocated the self same principles?

More might be said, many more facts might be adduced to prove the futility of administering poisonous minerals for the cure of disease, but the above may suffice for the present, and in conclusion, we would observe that we hold ourselves responsible for the proof of the above facts whenever reason shall so dictate.

#### HUMANITUS.

BALTIMORE CITY, March 29th, 1833.

I have just returned from attending a trial, to which I was summoned to attend. The State of Maryland was plaintiff in the case, or rather, the Medical faculty, as they were the informers, and get the whole of the fine,

which was \$50 for each offence, and two offences were pending in the trial. James S. Primrose was the defendant. This offence consisted in practicing medicine without a legal licence from a regular Medical Board.

E. F. Chambers, U. S. Senator, was employed by the Faculty to assist the States' Attorney in the prosecution. Messrs. Carmichael, Peirce, and Spencer assisted the defendant. The trial excited much interest. It lasted three days. Two days were occupied with arguments before the Court, which appeared determined from the commencement to use its utmost influence and full extent of authority to put down the Thomsonians. The Court utterly refused to admit Dr. Thomson's Patent to go before the Jury as evidence in the case, or any testimony to prove the superiority of Thomsonian medicine. The only witness sworn in behalf of the State was William A Robinson. This testimony was nearly as follows: He stated that he was taken sick with a bilious complaint on Saturday, on Sunday sent for Mr. Primrose; obtained relief and was able to go about on Tuesday. He took a relapse; sent for Mr. Primrose, and was well on the Monday following. Without any account being presented to him, he paid Mr. Primrose \$4.50. He could not say whether it was for services or medicine.

The case was ably, and very ingeniously defended by the defendant's Attorneys. Mr. Spencer, particularly. He became quite enthusiastic in the good cause, but all without the desired effect. It was difficult to rid the mind of the impression that the case had been judged and determined by Court and Jury previous to going into trial. If so, you know it was a hard case and a bad chance for anything like justice. I was informed that so much excitement of public feeling has seldom, if ever appeared in that Court house before. There

was a general impatience for the trial.

It was frequently remarked by the audience, that a majority present were in favor of the Thomsonians. As far as I could judge from the countenances of the people, I was fully persuaded it was the case.

We lost the suit before the Court, but I am persuaded our defeat was crowned with a great victory. Many important truths were told in relation to the odious medical law that will not soon be forgotten: like the seed sown in good ground, it will spring up and yield an hundred fold. A meeting has since been called in Kent county to take into consideration the late decision of the Court, and to take such measures as shall be thought best adapted to emancipate the people from the impositions of the Faculty; and the fear of death from the host of poisons they are known to use so liberally under the pretence of their being salutary medicines. When shall we regain that freedom which the martyrs of the revolution purchased with their blood? The people in general have not been apprised of their situation, they have not understood the unreasonable and oppressive relation in which they were placed, in regard to the Medical Faculty. This trial will have a powerful tendency to open their eyes. I am very much mistaken if there is not a redeeming spirit existing which this incident will rouse to action, such gross violations of the people's rights can not long remain uncorrected.

Mr. Primrose is a man in quite limited circumstances, but very much respected by the whole circle of his acquaintance. A few years since he had the misfortune to loose one of his hands by the explosion of a gun. You will understand this suit has been commenced and carried on by a kind, benevolent set of Doctors, whose great concern is the welfare of the people. The prosecution was pushed on with unrelenting vigor, against a

poor, unfortunate maimed man, whose only crime was, *not doing any harm, but on the contrary much good*, thereby taking from him the only means of subsistence. The most abandoned wretch in society can scarcely forbear to sympathise with him in this aggravated affliction. The deadly froth and scum of aristocracy has been poured out upon him. These benevolent Doctors have ran upon him like a kennel of blood hounds let loose to pursue their prey. I wish in my soul that I was able to give you more satisfactory information concerning this extraordinary trial. My patience is exhausted in reflecting on so unpleasant and disgusting a subject.

Respectfully your's &c.

W. S.

Cincinnati, March 31, 1833.

DEAR SIR:

I have for some time wished for an opportunity to communicate to you as Gen. Cor. Sec. of the U. S. Botanic Society, a sketch of the circumstances and success attending the Thomsonian remedies as administered by Dr. Tibbets and myself during the prevalence of the late epidemic Cholera. We were then associated in practice. Previous to the Cholera making its appearance in Cincinnati, we came to the conclusion, in which we were confirmed by the result, that provided it visited our city, Thomsonians would not be able to attend to half the patients that would call upon them.

Under these apprehensions we tho't it advisable to publish handbills containing the necessary directions for the benefit of those who might apply for medicine, on whom we might not be able to attend, and who might not find it convenient or desirable to apply for other assistance. These handbills, however, were chiefly intended for the first attack of the complaint.— These handbills were pretty generally circulated among our friends, pre-

vious to the first of October last. At that time you well know the cholera made its appearance in Cincinnati.— Those among us who paid any attention to passing events, will recollect, that all, or nearly all, of those who were taken for the first nine or ten days of its commencement, perished. Dr. Drake acknowledges that 21 or '2 of the first patients attacked, terminated fatally. However, this was not exactly the case; for all the first cases that came under the care of Dr. Tibbets and myself, lived. I attributed this success in part to our then having time to stay with our patients, and seeing that the medicine was properly given. In a time of such general excitement as then existed among us these circumstances became generally known. This successfulness was the cause of four times as many calling upon us as could possibly be served with proper attention. At that memorable period of misery and distress, we made it a point to visit those first, who were thought to be in the most dangerous situation, sending medicine and bills of directions to those who were supposed to be in a less dangerous condition. You will naturally suppose, and such indeed were the facts, that we met with patients laboring under every variety of difficulty incident to mankind. Some, their constitutions were worn down by dissipation, dyspepsia, and other chronic affections. Some were given over to die, by the mineral doctors. Some were in a dying state when first we saw them. Some changed us for the mineral doctors and died. After all, I know that I speak within the limits of truth in making the following declaration, viz. that Dr. Tibbets and myself did not prescribe to more than 20 cholera patients who did not get over it, notwithstanding all the difficulties we had to encounter. We did not lose more than 7 that took no other than Thomsonian remedies. We attended

above a hundred confirmed cases of epidemic cholera. We cured at least half that number of persons who were laboring under the premonitory symptoms. Two hundred persons at least bought from us Thomsonian medicine and cured themselves. Notwithstanding these stubborn facts, such is the intrigue of the faculty, and their more pitiful dupes, that many people are made to believe that the botanic physicians were not as successful as the mineral doctors.

They and their dupes industriously circulate reports, that such a one has not lost a single patient that no other person interfered with. By this must be understood that they have not lost a single patient that no other doctor saw but himself; for instance, a patient is taken sick with cholera, a messenger is despatched for a doctor, the bearer of the message may apply at the offices of several doctors before he finds one, leaves his summons at each office where he calls; perhaps in an hour half a dozen doctors have seen the patient. If the patient dies no one of them will acknowledge any responsibility in the case. If so fortunate as to live in defiance of all their poisons, they all claim the credit of effecting the cure. Hence, a dozen might die with cholera, without leaving behind them a physician that will acknowledge that they were in attendance, and if one should fortunately live, a dozen will claim the honor of performing the cure.

Under this formidable train of disgusting circumstances, I am borne up with the consolatory reflection, that truth must eventually prevail, and the transient impressions made on public opinion by falsehood, sink in deserved infamy.

I have endeavored to give you a brief, faithful, and truly impartial account of the principal circumstances and the success of our practice in this city during the trying season, when the cholera prevailed among us. D.

say the statement made is impartial? Friends, who were well acquainted with our practice and success at that prolific period, will raise an objection, and say that I have drawn too large a figure on our own side. Well, be it so. We prefer this kind of error to any exaggerated reports. By making mention of those who were in a dying state before we saw them, of those given over by the regular faculty as incurable, and of those who left us and applied to the mineral doctors, some may think we unnecessarily wrong our own cause; but I have had this one object in view, viz. if ever this subject should be more minutely and critically investigated, I design that this account shall not be found to be an artful, exaggerated tale, in our own behalf; but a plain, honest, simple statement, of undeniable matters of fact. In conclusion, I would just state, that we cured 13 that were in a collapsed state. For the benefit of those unacquainted with cholera and technical terms, we will just state what we understand by a collapse, or we will rather state the condition patients were in whom we accounted to be in a collapsed state. "The face, tongue, hands and feet, were deadly cold, pulsation at the wrist had entirely ceased, or was scarcely perceptible, the skin, when moved upon the muscles, or pinched up together, would remain in a kind of fixed situation; a blueish discoloration of the whole surface appeared, attended with a short, hurried respiration." These appearances with us were allowed to be plainly indicative of that peculiar condition of cholera called collapse.

I am happy at the close of my communication to be able to assure you that the Thomsonian Recorder is read among us with peculiar interest. I will venture to assert that there are no Thomsonians within my knowledge who are not well satisfied with that periodical. All your subscribers

whom I have heard express any opinion, have expressed the greatest satisfaction. It is justly entitled not only to the patronage of Thomsonians, but to all, except those who have relinquished the right to investigate for themselves, who are willing to become dupes to the interested mineral tribe. I know of only one who takes the Eclectic, there may be others. I know of none who have bought the "improved system," as it is called.—Query, are those individuals we hear of who have embraced Howardism agents or not? A correct answer to this enquiry might account for their zeal in a very satisfactory manner. I am, sir, with sentiments of respect, yours, &c. **ROB'T TALBOTT.**

**RICHMOND VA. March 19, 1833.**  
To Jarvis Pike & Co.

Gentlemen, I cannot say that the Thomsonian System has advanced with all that rapidity for a few months past, that some of its warm supporters might have anticipated. Strong prejudices still exist in the minds of many people. These must generally be imputed to the many misrepresentations and falsehoods fabricated and circulated by the practitioners who deal largely in mineral poisons. The general prospect is however favorable. I can say with emotions of pleasure, we have had a gradual and regular advancement. Many of our intelligent citizens; and some who are justly accounted influential characters are to be found among its warmest friends. Some of the Physicians of the old school are numbered among its advocates; one particularly, who graduated in Philadelphia, has actually espoused the cause. He says, the cures he has effected under the guidance of the Thomsonian System have greatly astonished him.—Cases which formerly required several weeks of medical treatment, he can now cure in twenty four or forty eight hours. He gives his decided



testimony to its being one of the greatest discoveries ever before made in medical science. I am endeavoring to promote the circulation of the Recorder, willing to do all I can for the encouragement of your valuable paper. I shall use my greatest exertions to bring the people from darkness to light, respectfully soliciting all the rising instructions from time to time, which your long experience undoubtedly will frequently enable you to communicate. T. A. G.

CARTHAGE, TEN. March 8, 1833.  
Gentlemen,

I feel satisfied I shall not commit an unwelcome trespass in addressing you by letter. Permit me to congratulate you as occupying a high and honorable station, engaged in a good cause, that promises extensive and lasting benefits to mankind. I am happy to find that Dr. Thomson's invaluable system has fallen into hands capable of doing it that justice it so highly merits. It is like any thing else liable to suffer injury by being committed to incompetent hands, and improperly managed. I care not how great the people's prejudices may be against it in any part of the globe, only let some persevering, honest individual arise, of character and talents, he will be measurably successful in calming the raging tumult, hushing the thunderings of calumny & opposition of learned ignorance. The encouraging prospects of health, and longevity which Dr. Thomson's happy system of practice presents to its votaries, furnish the best reasons in the world for the wise and discerning to become its faithful advocates. I feel confident the dull imposing light of deceitful, imposing, popular quackery will go down in a gloomy cloud to rise no more. The Thomsonian luminary is advancing and rising superior to the strong prejudices of an interested faculty. The people are rushing to the light. Thomson must

know he has much to encourage him. He has not toiled and laboured in vain. I hope he may yet live fully to realize his utmost wishes. To witness the resistless progress of his system of practice, in putting down those unreasonable prejudices and bewildering superstitions, that have so long and so miserably deluged the world.

The noble generous sons of Columbia have been imposed upon too long by the deceitful pretensions of the medical faculty. No science has been involved in greater darkness than that of medicine. False theories have prevailed—a dangerous unsuccessful course of practice, without any uniform system has everywhere obtained. Misery and death have attended their course. I am happy in the faith that the dark and heavy swell of these bitter waters of medical strife and desolation are receding from our shores. The persecutions the disciples of Thomson have received from some few blind & deluded individuals, reminds me of the conduct of Jews and Gentiles towards the early votaries of Christianity. The more vigorous the efforts of the enemies of Thomsonianism, the more resistless will be its march, the more complete its triumph.

Robinson's Lectures are sublimely written—they appear well calculated to do good to the system. They are powerful to convince the honest enquirer: It is reported by some that the doctor is deranged—this however could not affect the truth and elegance of his reasonings. I would like to have a full share of his derangement, as far as it has appeared in his Lectures. I purchased a right some time since—on account of much opposition I kept it a secret until thoroughly convinced, I was withholding a benefit from my fellow men, which it should be my pride and glory to communicate. I have now entered the field for life, victory is my motto. The

meed of fame is Thomson's. I am gratified to have it in my power to assure you that the system is gaining ground.  
J. I. B.

THE RECORDER.

COLUMBUS,

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1833.

WASHINGTON CITY.

APRIL, 17, 1833.

Agreeably to public notice, a numerous and respectable meeting of citizens was held at the Engine House, near McCarty's Hotel, on Monday evening, the 11th instant, "to take into consideration the recent ordinance of the Medical Association of Washington, and to adopt such measures in relation thereto as might be deemed expedient."

John Davis, Esq., was called to the chair, and Thos. B. Reily, appointed Secretary.

On motion, the Secretary read the ordinance referred to, and.

After several animated and appropriate addresses, the following resolutions were adopted, and unanimously passed by the meeting:

*Resolved.* That we view, with surprise and disapprobation, the recent ordinance of the Medical Association of Washington, by which the Physicians belonging to it are prohibited from exercising any discretion whatever, in making their charges for medical services, except in increasing them.

*Resolved,* That, whilst we are willing to yield to the members of the medical profession an ample and liberal support, we are entirely opposed to any and every combination, by which we are deprived of that competition which is necessary to protect our interests.

*Resolved,* That, under existing circumstances, we will not employ, and we respectfully recommend to our fellow-citizens not to employ, any member of the Association.

*Resolved,* That a committee of five be appointed to report to an adjourned meeting, such facts or suggestions as they may deem expedient, together with a plan of operation to counteract the

ordinance of which their fellow-citizens complain.

*Committee.*—J. R. M. Bryant, John N. Moulder, J. B. Rooker, Thomas Arbuckle, Thos. B. Reily.

*Resolved,* That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the several papers of this City, together with extracts from the Regulations of the Medical Association of Washington, including their Table of Fees.

Adjourned, to meet at the City Hall, on Monday evening next, at 7 o'clock.

JOHN DAVIS, *Chairman.*

THOS. B. REILY, *Secretary.*

*Extract from Regulations of the Medical Association of Washington.*

II. The members of this Association shall charge for their professional services the fees in the following table; subject, however, to the several rules contained in this code relative to the same:

	<i>Dolls.</i>
For visit and prescription,	1 00
First consultation visit,	5 00
Do. do. beyond the limits of the city, - - -	8 00
Each subsequent consultation visit, - - - - -	2 00
Venesection or extracting a tooth, - - - - -	1 00
Prescription, venesection, dressing a wound, and extracting a tooth at the Physician's house, -	1 00
Visit and passing the catheter or bougie - - -	5 00
Do. often repeated, - -	2 00
Visit, for every mile from the center of the city, in addition to ordinary fee, -	1 00
Rising in the night and advice at Physician's house, in addition to ordinary fee,* - - - -	2 00
Do. and visit, - - - -	5 00
Do. and consultation visit,	7 00
Attendance at Patient's house during the night } to	5 00
	10 00
Case of gonorrhæa, - - -	10 00
Case of syphilis, - - -	15 00
Case of midwifery in the day	12 00
Do. if any part of the attendance be in the night,	15 00

Capital operations, as am-	} 40 00 to 100 00
putating large limbs; li-	
thotomy, trepanning, or	
excision of large tumors,	
Reducing fractures, or luxa-	
tions, fistula in ano. tap-	
ping for dropsy, &c.	10 00
Amputating fingers and toes,	
reducing hernia, excision	
of small tumors,	5 00
Stitching recent wounds,	
opening abscesses, introdu-	
cing seton or issue,	3 00
Each subsequent dressing,	2 00
Vaccination,	3 00

[The members of the Association are prohibited from charging *lower* than these rates.]

15. No member of this Association shall make a contract to attend an individual or a family by the year, or any other terms than those authorized by these regulations.

16. No member of this Association shall consult with, or meet in a professional way, any practitioner who is not a member thereof.

We, the undersigned, do approve of the regulations adopted by the Medical Association of the city of Washington, and do agree, on our honor, to comply with the same.

Frederick May,	J. C. Hall,
Alex. McWilliams,	Thomas Miller,
Geo. W. May,	Jos. Borrows,
William Jones,	A. McD. Davis,
H. Hunt,	Thos. G. Boyd,
Joseph Lovell,	H. F. Condict,
Nath'l. P. Causin,	H. Haw,
Richmond Johnson,	W. Baker,
Thos. Sewall,	J. Waring,
T. Henderson,	B. J. Miller,
Fred. Dawes,	L. Osburn,
Harvey Lindsley,	J. M. Thomas,
Noble Young,	Robert T. Barry,
W. N. Waters,	W. B. Magruder,
R. S. Briscoe.	

\*The night in this table is considered as beginning at ten o'clock, P. M. and ending at sunrise.

Pursuant to adjournment, a large and respectable meeting of citizens took place at the City Hall, on Monday evening, the 13th instant, to adopt such measures in relation to the recent Ordinance of the Medical Association of

Washington, as might be deemed expedient.

A letter was read from John Day Esq. Chairman of the previous meeting stating that "An unparalleled, unprovoked, and brutal attack was made on him, on the evening of the 13th instant by one Samuel C. Potter, which has so disabled him as to render it altogether impossible for him to be in attendance."

Whereupon, Edward Stubbs, Esq. was called to the Chair.

The proceedings of the last meeting were read.

J. R. M. Bryant, Esq. from the committee appointed to report such suggestions as they might deem expedient, together with a plan of operation to counteract the Ordinance complained of made the following REPORT

Understanding that much misapprehension exists in the minds of many of the citizens, in relation to the powers granted by Congress to the Physicians of the district, many individuals being that the Physicians were invested with plenary authority by the act of February 16th, 1819, your Committee have deemed it advisable to examine the matter referred to, and to state for public information, that the Association recently formed, is unknown to the law, and organized for the accomplishment of objects not contemplated by the Act of Congress.

The Act of February 16, 1819, incorporates the Medical Society of the District, authorizes them and their successors, to hold real estate, and to establish a Board for the examination of persons desirous to become practitioners in the District, and especially provides "That nothing herein contained shall authorize the said Corporation, in any wise, to regulate the price of medical and surgical attendance on such persons as may need their services." Then, the members of the present Association, claim to be the successors of those, to whom the Act in question refers, they have evidently forfeited the Charter by the violation of its provisions: if they do not, they have combined together, and usurped, without authority, powers which the wisdom of Congress deemed it prudent to withhold.

With the mere etiquette of professional intercourse, your Committee conceive they have nothing to do, and they have no disposition to interfere, in the remotest degree, with the rules which the members of the profession may consider essential to prevent difficulty, in cases where they may unavoidably come to the conflict with each other.

This is a matter which belongs to themselves, so far as the right of election on the part of the patient is not concerned. They cannot, however, refrain from observing, that in the rules laid down, the patient is treated as a description of property, to which there may be adverse claims, and that his right to exercise his own judgment and partiality, is not distinctly admitted.

The rates of charges which have been established by the Association, being the principal subject which has attracted the notice of the public, has received from your Committee, all due attention, and dispassionate consideration.

It cannot be expected that a committee, composed entirely of individuals who are not members of the medical profession, should furnish a decided opinion upon the propriety of the charges which are proposed for important surgical operations; but if these, as fixed by the Association, bear a relative proportion to the charges for ordinary practice, they do not hesitate to denounce the whole tariff as exorbitant, unjust and oppressive. From their own experience, and from all the information which they have been enabled to acquire upon the subject, they are fully convinced that, even with the deduction proposed, in some cases only, (and that in the most objectionable manner,) the expense of medical attendance will average at least 100 per cent. more, according to the established rates, than the majority of the physicians have been in the habit of charging, in the course of their ordinary practice. It will not escape the observation of those who read with attention the regulations of the Association, that the rates therein exhibited are intended merely as a *minimum*, and that the propriety even of an increase of those rates is not left to the discretion of the physician, but is enjoined upon him as a *duty*, and

this not merely in particular cases, but in all.

No one who has reflected on the subject a moment, will fail of being persuaded that no established rates of charges can do justice to every class of the community. A charge which would not occasion the slightest inconvenience to one class, would be oppressive and ruinous to another; and as there are many individuals in humble life who would be unable to meet a demand based upon the regulation referred to, even with the proposed reduction of 33 1-3 per cent. and whose honest pride would be wounded by the offer of charitable assistance, your committee are reasonably apprehensive that they will either forego the advantage of medical advice, when it might possibly preserve a life valuable to the community, or that in extremity they may be induced to incur a debt which will wring from the hard hand of poverty its little all to discharge, whilst the ability to diminish it is withheld from the creditor. Your committee regret, therefore, that the members of the Association have not been influenced entirely by the "code of ethics" which they have promulgated, and that the regulations which they have enacted are in direct conflict with their avowed principles. It is possible that it was in consequence of their rules being in opposition to their principles, that it was deemed important, in addition to the pledge of honor, to establish a system of espionage, to prevent the violation of both.

The Committee cannot but express their disapprobation of the 15th and 16th articles of the association, betraying as they do, an arrogant assumption of authority, well deserving the indignant rebuke of the community. The right of selecting, in the last moment of earthly wo, a medical adviser who may possess the confidence of the patient, is evidently denied. Should the Physician whom he desires may be consulted, be without the pale of the Association, he must forego his services, or be deprived of his attending Physician, who is most intimately acquainted with his condition, and the different remedies which have been administered.

Your committee find it easier to state

the extent of the evil, than to propose an appropriate efficient remedy.

Two plans have suggested themselves. To employ the Physicians of Georgetown, and the vicinity, where no such combination exists, is the first.

The second is, to form associations, the members of which will agree to bind themselves in the sum of twenty dollars per annum for medical services, whether they may be needed or not, during the year. One hundred persons uniting together upon those terms, will give a liberal support to a Physician, and your Committee believe, from the consultations they have had with many citizens, that four or five of these associations can be formed, affording the means at once of supporting a like number of Physicians of reputation, who may be invited to settle among us, and who, being entirely free to render professional assistance to those whose means are limited, upon their own terms, your Committee conceive that the introduction of these associations would render great service to the public.

With these remarks your Committee submit the subject to the citizens, conscious that it is only necessary for the People's attention to be called to the subject, in order with ability and efficiency to enforce their rights.

The report having been read:

It was on motion, unanimously adopted, and ordered to be published in the newspapers of the city.

The meeting then adjourned to meet again on Wednesday evening next, at 6 o'clock, at the City Hall.

EDWARD STUBBS, Ch'mn.  
TH. B. REILY, Sec'y.

#### WIND WORK.

Wind work is the principal labor of some men's whole lifetime. It is a business in which we do not wish to be engaged. With all that dullness of intellect under which we labor, we think we can see a LITTLE into it. "Dr Howard," says the Eclectic, No 11 page 163, "possesses the advantages of a liberal education, has studied the science of medicine in the mineral school, and his books enjoy a style that recommends them to the attention of the better part of community at once; hence the great popularity of the reformed work."—

Admitting the statement to be true that Mr Howard has really received liberal education, and could substantiate the fact by producing his diploma we should be much more pleased to find him possessed of a liberal ingenious mind. But what has all this LITTLE Braggadocio's nonsense to do in relation to the merits or demerits of the reputed author of the Improved System of botanic medicine? Does he not say, "I would feel myself guilty of injustice to Dr Hance's character and to the confidence which the public has justly placed in his talents, did I omit acknowledging, in this manner, that he is more justly entitled to the authorship of this work than myself, and I interceded that his name should have gone to the world as its author." Reader, we presume you can see a LITTLE into this. Its but a LITTLE matter, but very easy to understand.

"Thomson's New Guide to Health," says the Eclectic No 12 page 179, "written in too confused and loose a manner,—containing many erroneous and exploded principles, calculated to mislead the enquiring mind, and is very defective in the arrangement of its subjects." We are no sticklers for that systematic pathology that has so long involved the medical world in pitchy darkness and led men to give medicine for a name, instead of adapting the remedy to the disease. To say that, "it is written in too confused and loose a manner," is a complaint that comes with an ill grace from Mr Howard or his advocates, since the Author of the IMPROVED SYSTEM, whoever he may be, acknowledges concerning his own Book that, "It will not be at all surprising, if an attentive reader should find some parts too superficially, while others may be too obscurely, too loosely, or too unconnectedly treated"—"many parts of it were hastily written, and committed to the press, without the opportunity of maturing it by reflection?" The faults complained of in Dr Thomson's work, we should think quite excusable in him who makes no pretensions to literary fame, who never enjoyed the advantages of a liberal education.—In Dr Howard, "the man of liberal education, who has studied the science of medicine in the mineral school," the



Reformer" of medical practice—the reputed author of the "Improved system of Botanic Medicine—the man of so many "new views and so wide a range," to palm upon the world such a confessedly superficial, obscure, loose, unconnected, hastily written work, prematurely committed to the press, and then to claim such a high preeminence over all his predecessors and contemporaries, (either personally or by proxy,) is, to say the least, something like an extravagant demand. The honest, impartial, disinterested reader must be excused if he sees a LITTLE into this imposition.

The Eclectic complains of the "New Guide" as "containing many erroneous and exploded principles." This however is but a LITTLE explosion. The regret is by no means alarming. Recollecting that Mr Howard has affirmed publicly in the face of the world, that "Dr Thomson has, both by precept and by actual demonstration astonished us, with his profound knowledge of the principles which govern his practice, and in a variety of difficult cases in both sexes, has far exceeded our former knowledge." Now the times have altered, the "golden harvest" lies on the opposite side of the field. These principles which govern his practice, in which he was eminently successful, at which Howard then gazed with astonishment, acknowledging the actual demonstration of their truth, and their unequivocal efficacy when reduced to practice, now these principles which were then demonstrated as standing on an immutable basis, are LITTLE jostled from their strong foundation—"erroneous and exploded"!!!!!! Between Mr Howard and his friends they can blow hot or cold to suit the times. As for Mr Little's aspersion, Eclectic p. 180 "That Dr Thomson's management at the present day, is different in many respect, from the course recommended in his work." We have only to say it is a deceptive disingenuous insinuation. He has never abandoned any of his former remedies—he has never exploded a single principle that has always governed his practice. The verbal information at first promised has been handed to the world in several of the last editions of the "New Guide."

The accumulation of this kind of knowledge which he has ever been so liberal in communicating, goes more permanently to establish the immutability of the principles which have, do now, and ever will govern his practice as long as he remains on the stage of action.

With the Lebanon correspondent, Rev. Wilson Thomson, whose communication has been paraded in the Eclectic, we will say, "We esteem Dr Thomson very highly for his work's sake; as the founder of a safe and efficient system of medical practice, which should fill the heart of every rational man, who becomes acquainted with its benefits, with gratitude to God, and respect for the Doctor, who has suffered so much in bringing his system to light and usefulness in the world." And now reader, from whom does he suffer more than from those improvers and reformers who are continually traducing his character, abusing his system and misrepresenting every thing that can advance the cause or sustain his reputation.

We wish if possible to avoid all contact with these vanity stricken reformers. Whatever they can do for the advancement of botanic knowledge, let it be done. But, we are weary of conjures, and those doubtful prescriptions that so amuse idle minds, mislead the unwary and deceive the simple.

The Eclectic and its parasites have raised the red flag of opposition and are much disposed to punch and pound, but we often perceive that, "they appear in a sea of trouble,

— "and flounce and kick to help them thro' their hobble,

Whether in youth, or middle age, or dotage,

They will sing songs and whoop, to raise their courage."

### OBITUARY NOTICE.

Died in this town on the 3rd instant, Mrs. Elizabeth Baker, consort of Mr. Morris Baker, recently from Virginia, aged 22. On Tuesday the 23rd of April ult. this amiable woman was confined by parturition. We understand that she had been in quite a delicate state of health through the pre-

ceding season. The mother and child, however, appeared in every respect to be doing as well, as could reasonably be expected under existing circumstances. On the third day of her confinement, she was so comfortable, as to rise out of bed and received the customary attentions.— At evening she manifested some symptoms of increasing indisposition, or of some new form of disease commencing. These incipient incidental circumstances were supposed to be the result of fatigue, or of having made some exertion rather beyond her strength. An opiate, with sweet spirits of nitre, we understand were among the first medicine given at this stage of her complaining.

Passing over the minutia of the treatment, we shall only notice, that becoming suddenly delirious, her strength was greatly prostrated, and notwithstanding her extremely delicate habit, she was twice bled, daily dosed with calomel, ten blisters were applied to her tender skin, & her head was profusely laved in cold water. On the 10th day from her confinement, the cold hand of death seized upon her, and life's vital flame was utterly extinguished. Thanks to him who directs the high destinies of man, no unfortunate Thomsonian was in attendance to share his dividend of the responsibility connected with the issue, or, to be criminated and prosecuted for poisoning the woman to death. (Neither Lobelia, Cayenne, Steam, Nerve powder, nor No. 6. were administered. We should not have noticed this disastrous occurrence thus circumstantially; but for the frequency of similar events.

A respectable, intelligent, regular Physician attended her with indefatigable zeal and perseverance, the benevolence of whose motives we would not dare to question. As an honorable man, a gentleman and a scholar we offer thus publicly the tributary

homage of our unfeignedly respectful consideration: but the phlebotomy, mercurialising and blistering practice is utterly abhorrent to our feelings, we reprobate it most cordially, as hostile to human life, and irreconcilable with common sense, as being the spawn of tradition, the drag of learned folly.

Can any human being be so deceived as to imagine, that a course of treatment, that would have seriously injured the hardest constitution in the country, a course to which no man could have submitted without putting his life in jeopardy, is in its result calculated to produce a salutary effect, on such a feeble, delicate and slender constitution as that of the deceased? What! shall we attempt to save the lives and restore the health of our tender wives and little offspring, by those rash and dangerous means, that would endanger the life of the stoutest man in society, should he pursue such measures with himself when well? The man swallowing extravagant doses of opium and mercury, bleeding and blistering, would be accused of pursuing a suicidal course, yet, the tenderest females, and their little ones when sick, are treated in this preposterous manner.

We sympathise with deep emotions of human pity with the unfortunate afflicted, bereaved husband of the deceased, and the two little children thus prematurely and disastrously deprived of an affectionate and worthy mother. We feel a mournful pity for all those distant relatives who have yet to hear the melancholy tidings.

We sincerely condole with her ingenious, kind-hearted, attentive Physician, whose feelings of regret and humane commiseration, must like our own, be specially excited on the melancholy and distressful occasion. Kind Heaven! Protect her hapless Babes, too young to know the loss they have sustained!!!

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER,

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"

"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HERSEY, *Senior Editor.*

VOL. I.]

COLUMBUS, MAY 15 1833.

[No. 16.]

## TOWER'S LECTURE,

On the Thomsonian practice of Medicine, continued from page 202, Recorder No. 11.

"It has often been said, that 'Dr. Thomson is an impostor.'" Let us proceed and examine the means he has had, from the commencement of his medical career until now, of imposing on the people. Let us bring him before us when but a child, with his parents. At this time they were inhabitants of a new country, and of course his advantages for an early education were very limited. But this privation of schooling was perhaps compensated to him, for his situation afforded him an opportunity to pursue that study for which nature seems to have designed him. There his mind was early expanded—not by a studious attachment to books, or by moving in the fashionable circles of society, but by a studious and youthful attachment to the investigation of the vegetable kingdom. It appears he very early united all his amusements and recreations with some useful and curious experiment. He was, it seems, an ardent lover of knowledge from his very infancy; but he chose to obtain it rather by searching nature, without any medium or rules prescribed by others, than to resort to books. He resided in a place where nature had scattered with a wasteful hand, all those objects which are calculated to excite the admiration and exertions of an ingenious mind.

"It was in this romantic retreat that the mind of young Thomson first received that eager curiosity to enquire into the uses of things, which perhaps laid the foundation of his after discoveries. In this retreat he was a stranger to all those insidious designs which human nature is ever wont to instigate in older and more propitious parts of the country. Here his mind was not contaminated with false notions in any of the sciences, or with undue prejudices for any established institutions, by an ac-

quaintance with the writings of any sectarian zealot. There he seems to have taken nature alone for his guide and instructor; and he was as free to explore its works as it had been beneficial to him, in both giving to his mind a tact favorable for enquiring, and in placing such a variety of objects around him, which seemed to invite his investigation. He continued to follow with unremitted zeal, a course of critical investigation, until he had arrived to years of manhood: nor indeed did his enquiries stop here—for he entered upon those scenes of human life, in which men generally find it for their interest to reduce to practice all the important knowledge they have before known in theory. It was so with Thomson; what he had known before in theory, and what had served him for amusement, now he knew with an experimental certainty, and it served him in saving human life.

"It was not until sometime after Dr. Thomson had a family, that he thought seriously about giving himself to the practice of medicine; for he informs us in his narrative, that he had a physician living in one of his houses for some time after his marriage, whom he frequently employed in his own family; and it was after this and other medical gentlemen had exhausted their skill to no good effect; in endeavors to remove some diseases in his own family, that Thomson attempted his success in the healing art. He had before this time however, collected a great many facts respecting remedies in disease. In those cases which we have mentioned, he exercised his best judgment, both in determining what the disease was, and in making a selection in remedies, and his exertions were attended with perfect success.

"This success was regarded by many, and even by himself, as a casual occurrence; but he found, however, by pursuing a similar mode of treatment

in many other cases, he met with similar success. Thus, by following that course which his own reason and judgment suggested to him to be proper, he was taught, to a demonstrative certainty, the great principles of life and motion in animal bodies—and before he was actually sensible of it, he had made a great discovery in the healing art; and ere he was aware, he found himself altogether engaged in the practice of medicine.

“Dr. Thomson knew the nature of the medicines he administered, and he knew too, the effects they produced, and he saw they were salutary; and from this knowledge of medicine and of its effects, he was led to a clear apprehension of the first moving cause of animal life.”

“Fellow-citizens, Dr. Thomson has made discoveries in the healing art—great and important discoveries. He has conferred substantial benefit upon man, and man will always remember him. He has in simplicity and honesty, and very frequently without any compensation, been doing his fellow creatures good. He has been successful in removing disease of the most obstinate kind, to the truth of which multitudes can with the greatest cheerfulness bear witness; and most of those engaged in the Thomsonian practice of medicine, have been rescued from the very brink of the grave by its efficacy, and sent back into the world to promulgate its utility. Such is the fact respecting the writer of this discourse; and this success, fellow-citizens, with which the Thomsonian system has been crowned, has brought the unmingled wrath of the whole faculty, down upon Thomson and his mode of practice. It is this, which has alarmed them; and it is this which has made our public papers teem with so many false, insidious reports, respecting steam and the steam practice.

“It may with truth be said, that Dr. Thomson has had every thing to encounter, since he commenced his medical career. The statement of a few facts will render the truth of the preceding sentence sufficiently evident. In the first place, he was not a man possessing refined education, which is necessary to make a man popular among

the more influential part of community. It is a truth, that real merit is not the first qualification to give a man influence among mankind. Dr. Thomson was plain and undisguised in all his manners and movements. Had he assumed more of that pomp and tinsel which characterizes many popular impostors, he would undoubtedly have executed his work with much less difficulty. But he first commenced the practice of medicine in his own family and neighborhood, without making any pretensions to superior knowledge.

“But he found in very truth, that his practice was a great improvement, and he knew by experience that he could relieve the sufferings of his fellow beings; and he moves forward, to do what was in his power to do, as every philanthropist would. But his success in practice was met with the utmost exertion of the faculty for its destruction; and hence he had the whole weight of their influence to contend with. When we remember that Dr. Thomson, some thirty or forty years ago, was what is termed “an illiterate man,” traversing the forests of New-England to ascertain the nature and efficacy of vegetables as medicine; when we remember all the persecution and opposition he has received from regular bred physicians and their numerous adherents—and when we remember also, that notwithstanding all those formidable barriers which have been thrown in the way of his progress, not only by doctors, but by the prejudices of the people and the treachery of confidentials; he has with in these United States more than one million of people disposed to judge favourably of his manner of curing disease. With these facts in view, we shall be induced to believe, that either Dr. Thomson is a man of very uncommon talents, or that his system has uncommon merits.

“A few remarks on Dr. Thomson's Theory of Disease, shall close this discourse. He contends that all diseases have one cause, and that cause is, *a want of a proper portion of warmth in the system, to produce an equal and healthful action in all its parts.*”

“The truth, fellow-citizens, concerning any subject, is important, and when known, is simple and easy to be under-

stood; but false theory, conjecture, and technical terms, having no place in the nature of things, are difficult to understand. The creatures of the imagination, and not the creatures of God, appear dark and intricate; and when we imagine we see an hundred distinct objects, where we in reality see only one, exhibited in various points of light, with all its diversified appearances—if we should let such a view of things have a practical influence, we should undoubtedly be led into a gross error. Accurate discrimination is of vital importance in discovering truth, especially in the science of medicine. But who does not know how endless are the theories of diseases, introduced into the world by the great leaders in physic? It is a plain fact, fellow-citizens, that opinions the most contradictory; concerning the causes and remedies of disease, are advocated by physicians, from the most learned & profound authors, down to the humblest practitioners. Does this look, fellow-citizens, as though the healing art, according to the present established institutions, is based upon as rational and immovable a foundation, as that on which Newton has placed natural philosophy? Or, does it not appear that physicians have arrived at no general principles in physic, which are sufficiently clear to produce uniformity among themselves? They certainly have not. With all their high pretensions then, to knowledge, are they entitled to any other appellation than that of *Quacks*?

“But shall we despair, fellow-citizens, of ever obtaining any general remedies of disease, or a knowledge of what constitutes motion and life in animal bodies, sufficient to direct us with more certainty in the application of medicine? We ought surely never to despair of obtaining more accurate knowledge on both of these subjects. We may receive it as a self-evident truth, that the God of Nature has provided better means for curing disease than those used by regular physicians. If he has not, an imputation of malevolence might be brought to bear upon his character: and if he has provided better means to cure disease, why is not Dr. Thomson as likely to obtain a knowledge of them as any other man?

He was born in a country which has produced as great men as the world ever knew, and he has pursued that manner of life which good reason, in our opinion, dictated, in order to render a man eligible to obtain such knowledge. He comes forth to the world labouring under every embarrassment, which every thing else but a good cause and a good conscience could create, affirming that he has made the desired discovery—and he demonstrates the truth of his affirmation by practice, the sure test of all theory.

“Dr. Thomson’s discoveries have a tendency to simplify the theory and practice of medicine—to have all the great discoveries in that branch of knowledge in which they were made. Discoveries in other sciences have taught the world that there is but one object, where mankind had before imagined there were thousands. Dr. Thomson, by discovering that all diseases have one cause, and that they differ in degree and location only, has, in our opinion, shown clearly that the endless distinctions and names given to diseases, are unlearned and unphilosophical. He has taught that there is but one object, where others had imagined there were multitudes. By seeing the connection in things, he learned that truth tended to simplify, but falsehood to complicate theory. It is, fellow-citizens, a well known fact, that all the discoveries in the arts have had a great influence to simplify, while some have come forward to the world laying claim to the high honor of discoveries, but possessing no merit, except what may be claimed by false speculation and technical terms.

“Although Dr. Thomson has asserted, and pretty clearly proved, that all diseases arise in consequence of cold or a loss of heat in the system, still he does not say but that the heat may escape the body by various causes. But he contends, that no cause can produce disease until it has diminished the heat in the system. Dr. Thomson maintains, that heat is animal life, or the cause of it. Learned doctors are not agreed whether it is heat or cold, or either of them.

“Dr. Thomson’s views of diseases and the practice of medicine is comfortable,



to this sentiment, that one man has but one life, and that in disease there is a system. Learned doctors' views of disease and the practice of medicine, would seem to indicate that there were several lives in one man, each of which exists independent of the other, and that in disease there is no sympathy between the parts of the system.

"Dr. Thomson administers medicine upon a regular system. Learned doctors have no system at all. Dr. Thomson's theory shows that the material world is kept in motion by one agent, and that there is a mighty connection between all the works of God. Learned doctors tell us nothing about the first moving cause."

#### ON POISONS.

The following is copied from "A Toxicological Chart, in which are exhibited at one view, the symptoms, treatment, and modes of detecting the various Poisons, by a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London." We shall extract such parts only, as give the names of the different articles, with the symptoms and effects produced on the system when taken, either by accident, or when prescribed by the learned doctor.

Our object is to lay before our readers a correct picture of the misery and distress that *must* be caused by administering Poison for medicine, as is constantly done by the medical faculty; and leave the public to judge for themselves whether such practice is not more calculated to cause and prolong disease, than to cure it.

The treatment recommended to counteract the effects of Poisons, and the tests to ascertain the different preparations, forms a large part of the chart, and which we could not copy for want of room; if we had it would be of little consequence; as we are in hopes that those who examine the subject will be satisfied that the safest way will be to avoid the use of all medical poisons, and then they will not need the antidote.

#### MINERAL POISONS.

**ARSENIC.**—*Symptoms.*—An austere taste; fetid breath, ptyalism constriction of the pharynx, œsophagus, hiccup, nausea, and vomiting of brown or bloody matter; anxiety and faintings, heat and violent pain at the pit of the stomach, stools black and offensive, pulse small, frequent and irregular; palpitations; great thirst and burning heat; breathing difficult; urine scanty, red, and bloody; delirium, convulsions of an epileptic character, and death.

**ANTIMONY.**—*Symptoms.*—Similar to those occasioned by acids, with abundant and obstinate vomitings, copious stools, constriction of the throat, cramps, symptoms of intoxication, and prostration of strength.

**BISMUTH.**—*Symptoms.*—Similar to those of other corrosive poisons, with great heat in the chest and very difficult breathing.

**COPPER.**—*Symptoms.*—Taste acrid and coppery; tongue dry and parched; constriction of the throat and coppery eructations; severe vomitings, or fruitless efforts to vomit; dragging at the stomach, dreadful cholic; frequent black bloody stools, with tenesmus; abdomen distended, pulse small, hard and quick, syncope, great thirst, and anxiety; cold sweats, scanty urine, cephalalgia, verigo, cramps, convulsions, death.

**GOLD.**—*Symptoms.*—Probably like those of other corrosive poisons, but not known.

**SILVER.**—*Symptoms.*—Similar to those occasioned by other corrosive poisons.

**TIN.** *Symptoms.* Taste austere, metallic, constriction of the throat, vomitings with pain over the whole abdomen; copious stools, pulse small, hard and frequent; convulsive movements of the extremities and face; sometimes paralytic, and mostly death.

**ZINC.** *Symptoms.* An acerb taste,

a sensation of choking, nausea and vomiting, pain in the stomach, frequent stools, difficult breathing, quickened pulse, paleness of face, coldness of the extremities; but seldom death, owing to the emetic quality of the poison.

**NITRE, OR SALT PETRE.** *Symptoms.* Cardialgia, nausea, painful vomiting, purging, convulsions, syncope, pulse feeble, extremities cold, with tearing pains of the stomach and bowels; difficult respiration, a kind of intoxication, and death.

**SAL AMMONIAC.** *Symptoms.* Excessive vomitings, with convulsions and general stiffness of the muscles, great pain in the bowels, early alteration of the features and death.

**LEAD.** *Symptoms.* When taken in large quantity, a sugary astringent metallic taste; constriction of the throat, pain in the region of the stomach, obstinate, painful, and often bloody vomitings, hiccup, convulsions, and death.

When taken in small long continued doses, it produces colic pictonum, and paralytic symptoms.

**MERCURY.** *Symptoms.* Acrid metallic taste, thirst, fulness, and burning at the throat; anxiety, tearing pains of the stomach and bowels; nausea and vomiting of various coloured fluids, sometimes bloody; diarrhoea and dysuria. Pulse quick, small, and hard; faintings, great debility, difficult breathing, cramp, cold sweats, insensibility, convulsions, and death.

**ACIDS.** **SULPHURIC, OR OIL OF VITRIOL.** **NITRIC, OR AQA FORTIS.** *Symptoms.* Acid burning taste, acute pain in the throat, stomach, and bowels, frequent vomiting of bloody fluid, which effervesces with chalk or alkaline carbonates, and reddens litmus paper; hiccup, copious stools, more or less bloody; tenderness of the abdomen; difficult breathing, irregular pulse, excessive thirst, drink increasing the pain, and seldom staying down;

frequent but vain efforts to make water, cold sweats, altered countenance, convulsions, and death.

The most virulent of poisons, producing almost instant death, when applied even in small quantities to the surface of the body.

**ALKALIES, CAUSTIC OR CARBONATED.** *Symptoms.* The taste acrid, urinous, and caustic; great heat in the throat; nausea and vomiting of bloody matter, which changes syrup of violets to green, and effervesces with acids if the carbonated form of the alkali has been taken; copious stools, acute pain of the stomach, convulsions, derangement, and death.

**ALKALINE EARTHS.** *Symptoms.* Violent vomitings, convulsions, palsy of the limbs, distressing pains in the abdomen, hiccup, alteration of the countenance, and very early death.

**GLASS OR ENAMEL.** *Symptoms.* If taken in very coarse powder, it produces irritation and inflammation of the bowels.

**ALCOHOL.** *Symptoms.* Intoxication, and when taken very freely, complete insensibility, with apoplexy or paralysis of one side; the countenance is swollen, and of a dark red colour; the breathing is difficult, and often stertorous, with a peculiar puffing out of the lips the breath smells of liquors, which will distinguish the symptoms from those of spontaneous apoplexy.

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### COMMUNICATIONS.

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Gibson County, [Tennessee.]

April 17th 1833.

Gentlemen,—Having become a convert to the Thomsonian System of practice and an advocate for its doctrines, I take this liberty of forwarding you a communication, of which you are to be the judges, if you think the production worthy of publication you can place it on the pages of your excellent Recorder, with my real name, as I intend to assume an independent course,

and follow the light of truth through evil as well as good report.

2. When I first heard of the system invented and practiced by Dr Thomson, I acknowledge that many objections & difficulties presented themselves to my mind, being at that time engaged in practice agreeably to the regular system, but upon a more intimate acquaintance, those difficulties and objections were removed.

3. I believed it to be an injudicious and dangerous course to administer heating remedies in fevers or in inflammatory diseases, knowing that under those circumstances the exhalent or capillary vessels are spasmodically constricted, also that the circulation suffers an acceleration producing an increased evolution of caloric or heat, by the consumption of oxygen gas in the lungs, causing an accumulation of what we called morbid heat, deranging the functions of life.

4. I believe now with Dr Thomson and his adherents, that all this is the effect of one general cause, and this excitement of the system is a friendly exertion of the power of life to throw off or resist the operation and influence of this cause, which is generally acknowledged by the faculty themselves to be cold, consequently obstructions are produced in a great many cases.

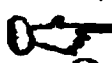

5. I found from this view of the subject, that to be consistent and avoid a mutilation of the laws of logic, that we should endeavor to remove the cause, act in concert with nature, and aid her in her operations against the enemy, to wit, cold and obstruction, which I do not believe can be very conveniently done by administering more cold; so here I bid a long adieu to refrigerents for the purpose of killing a fever.

6. I would prefer killing or removing cold and its attendant obstructions by the use of Dr Thomson's practice, which is so eminently qualified for that purpose, and which, when administered with judgment, is completely efficient in relaxing the system, equalizing the circulation, determining to the surface, clearing out obstruction and promoting a free perspiration, which condition of the system is incompatible with the prevalence of disease, and is according to the teaching of the faculty, in-

dispensably necessary to the reduction of inflammatory action: I accordingly give them greatly the preference on account of the certainty, safety, and permanency of operation, and being at the same time innocent on the powers of life, and compatible with all the laws of the animal economy.

7. I considered also that Dr Thomson must certainly be mistaken in his doctrine of cold, as he viewed it as the exciting cause of every form of disease, fever especially. I reflected upon the well known fact that fever often originates from animal and vegetable substances in a state of putrefaction, or from noxious affluvia arising from stagnant and stagnant waters, and I thought I, can this fever be the effect of cold. I soon fell upon a course of reasoning which explained the difficulty, and enabled me to discover even better that the disease originated in a loss of vital energy from indirect cold, and this too from a loss of purity in the atmosphere, by the impure influences exercised over it by those poisons becoming incorporated with it. Oxygen gas, the vivifying principle of heat, respiration and combustion, constituting one part of the atmospheric air, affords by its consumption in the lungs, by respiration, the animal temperature, upon a due proportion of which our health and lives depend; then do not be surprised by objectors when we say that heat is life and cold is death.

8. I readily discovered under the influence of this consideration, that whenever the atmosphere assumes this unhealthy quality in consequence of its admixture with those impurities, that instead of yielding the necessary quantity and quality of this principle, that it might only yield one half as much as is necessary to support the animal temperature, consequently a proportional reduction of the same is the inevitable consequence, and in the same degree cold morbid matter from the poisonous quality of the atmosphere, and obstruction gaining the ascendancy, the contest begins between those two antagonizing powers, and if heat or animation should sufficiently recover its empire, cold will be dispossessed, and heat will have gained the victory; but if vanquished by cold, as our skillful instructors

tor says, death ensues. Be not faithless, but believing when he says,  Heat is life, and cold is death. 

9. With this vital principle there seems to be connected a rational and immaterial essence called the soul, which seems to be preserved in a state of union with the body through the medium of this inestimably necessary principle of heat or animation, upon which our vital energies depend. Now whether this be life itself, or that condition of the animal economy which is indispensably necessary to perpetuate this mystic union between soul and body, it amounts to the same thing, and we should assiduously attend to those means calculated to support it and replenish its exhaustion from morbid influences. For, if this be not done, and we murder the friendly efforts of nature, paralyze her exertions, and aid disease in its insidious ravages upon the constitution, a baleful waste of this living principle takes place, yea, even a total extinction is the consequence;—and what follows? a separation of soul and body. Is not the body now dead? is it not cold? Then do not laugh ye opposers, when we say, that heat is life, and cold is death.

10. I concluded also, that he was inconsistent upon the subject of blood-letting, as he contended that this current of life should never be drawn off, as debility would be the consequence, and the enemy would gain the advantage in proportion to the quantity abstracted. The inconsistency I supposed to lie in his advising profuse perspiration, even steaming, after objecting to venesection, as above stated, which profuse perspiration, I concluded, would also be attended by debility, the matter perspired being actually a part of the blood.

11. After examining this subject closely, I found that he was correct, and that I was mistaken. I knew it to be the opinion of the best authors, that bleeding from whatever part, when spontaneously arising is a disease, or rather is a symptom of disease; surely then bleeding from the arm, by means of a lancet must occasion disease, which sometimes, even of itself, terminates fatally. This is a frequent occurrence where it is designed to effect a cure in violent sickness, fevers &c.

12. Physicians have divided bleeding, occurring as a disease, into active, and passive. Persons of strong elastic fibre, of a plethoric and athletic constitution, are liable to the former kind, those of a weakly and relaxed habit of body to the latter. For the first they advise the depleting or antiphlogistic plan, for the second, an opposite or restorative one. Yet, we are told by them, that the former, if not checked, will speedily run into the latter. Is it safe or rational then to draw off more blood from the arm, which they advise, assisting the disease and helping it on from the active into the passive form, into that extremely debilitated condition of the system, in which death is frequently the only relief?

13. I think that sound philosophy would teach us to remove that cause which has given rise to the bleeding, by correcting the quality of the blood, by obviating that situation of the body which predisposes to this disease, and equalizing the circulation, thus removing congestion, and the pressure to the particular part, if this be done the cause will not exist any longer, and the effect will cease.

14. Wherefore then the propriety or necessity of phlebotomy? We should reflect upon the powerful resources of nature in those cases; Where she is violently engaged in endeavoring to throw off disease, we should endeavor to assist her, and not to weaken her energies, and power of resistance, mistaking effects for their causes, as is the case when we bleed in fevers, &c.

15. Nature possesses a wonderful power in resisting injuries of every kind, for instance, when the body is exposed to intense cold, there is an almost irresistible inclination for exercise, which is entirely necessary for the support of life. By this means the circulating mass of fluids is accelerated in the vascular system and thrown into lively exercise, respiration is more quick, giving rise to an increased consumption of oxygen gas in the lungs.—Thus the system acquires and preserves heat sufficient to supply the exhaustion occasioned by the coldness of the surrounding atmosphere.

16. Finding nature so provident upon the subject of heat, we should profit by

this admonition, and not do violence to her laws, in robbing her of it unnecessarily. Suppose the body, in the above case, confined, so that no exercise could be taken, would not an equilibrium of temperature, take place as in the chemical constitution of all substances of unequal temperature? when placed in contact, there is a disposition towards an equilibrium, which invariably takes place if not prevented by a timely interference.

17. As the heat of the man's body in this case is overcome by the cold, is he not dead? Is he not cold? Talk not of quackery when we say that heat is life and cold is death. Then we should avoid those means which are calculated only to lessen the energies of life, & debilitate the system, among which stands bleeding, it produces an unhealthy habit of body, and renders unequal the tide of humors.

18. Nature is also capable of resisting heat. A man can exist in an oven sufficiently heated to bake bread; provident nature here concentrates all her energies for the preservation of herself, a powerful relaxation supervenes, profuse perspiration succeeds, and by this means the action of the heat is prevented from producing loss of life, by a redundancy of caloric in a concentrated state, and not under the beautiful and inimitable form in which it enters and animates the system, prepared and modified by the respiratory organs, entering into minute combination with the blood, and by its expansive and stimulant qualities propelling with amazing velocity that crimson current, through all its innumerable avenues, affording heat, life, animation and vigour to every part of the human machine.

19. Wonderful resources!! Then be not afraid of heat! Strive not so much against heat, ye men of the lancet, nitre and calomel; seeing that nature is possessed of this mighty power to resist it, even in a concentrated form.—She is capable to preserve that proportion of temperature which is essential to health, and incompatible with disease, but which may be overcome in sickness aided by such remedies.

20. Suppose we grant that in fever there is too much heat in the system as

by following nature it can be so easily expelled; what have you gained? Is not the accumulation of this heat merely an effect, a symptom?

21. Philosopher, would you in order to remove fever strike at the effect, at a mere symptom? If you say, that the cause is cold, and that obstructions exist, why not remove the cause, that the effect may cease?

22. If you say that the disorder has originated from morbid matter, poisonous effluvia, or swamp miasma, why not remove those causes, that the unpleasant consequences or effects may cease? Why draw blood? Will it purify the remainder? Is it not well calculated to increase that debility, which you say is the predisposing and exciting cause of almost every form of disease? Does it not hasten that putrefaction which brings many forms of fever to a speedy issue?

23. In imitation of nature (after cleansing the stomach by proper medicine, and administering more to restore the excitability of the system,) why not have recourse to the vapor or steam bath, which is so completely and invariably successful in removing morbid matter, clearing out obstructions, removing pains, and which would, if there was any necessity, expell all redundant heat, by means of a most profuse perspiration.

24. I no longer view Dr Thomson inconsistent in reprobating bloodletting. I find that he learned this from the book of nature; this is her mode of expelling excrementitious and morbid matter; then assist nature.

25. Bleeding is not congenial with nature, then do not undertake to draw the disease from the arm; do not undertake to carry it off by the bowels, they should be kept solvent, but remember, that according to physiology, seven, it not ten times more excrementitious matter is thrown out by the Capillaries, than passes off by the bowels. If you undertake to draw off the disease by active purgatives, you trample on the laws of nature, you revert the tide of humors and derange her in all parts, powers and functions, and you have at least to contend one against seven. I say again, what reasonable objection can you urge against the vapor bath, with the accom.



panying medicine, which, when the constitution is not entirely gone or destroyed; invariably cleanses the stomach sweats out obstructions, overpowers the cold, and promotes a free perspiration.

26. In a healthy condition of body, agreeably to Physiology, by means of a certain kind of glass, a steam may be always seen around the body. Then do not divert yourselves so immoderately upon the subject of steam. Do not accuse us of so much ignorance and quackery upon this subject, unless you wish to reflect upon the wisdom of One, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting, & as nature under the guidance of an Omniscient providence designs to evacuate through this channel, such a mass of offensive matter and relieve herself of that, which if retained, would prove detrimental, we intend when she fails to assist her. Yes, we will sweat, and steam, and throw off morbid matter, excrementitious matter, even when opposed with all manner of poisons, calomel and ratsbane not excepted.

27. I have not the least personal enmity against one of the faculty. I believe as a body, that they practice conscientiously; and are many of them humane and philanthropic men, yet, I am completely opposed to the popular practice of medicine; against this I speak! against this I write! and not against men.

Dear Sirs, your's in the spirit of the Thomsonian System, keeping Howard and his improvements at a distance.

ALEX. B. CLINGMAN.

*For the Recorder.*

NASHVILLE TENN. APRIL 1833.

Messrs. Editors:

When any one has embraced simple unadulterated truth and the dark clouds of prejudice are removed, he will naturally feel an interest in its diffusion, anxious that it should spread fast, that many may realize its benign influence and be benefitted by it.

It must be confessed that human nature is some how or another grievously depraved, yet in most, there is

a spark of good feeling, that the foul stream of the common corruption has not utterly extinguished. This vivifying spark must excite the pure desire, that truth should spread, triumph and abound, as being inseparable from the true interest of mankind, essential for the diffusion of rational felicity in human society.

Having truth for your foundation and starting post, it is presumed that yourselves and all intelligent friendly readers, will rejoice to hear the cheery tidings, how this powerful principle prevails, defeats opposition and wins imperishable laurels.

It would be useless to tell you, that in Nashville the Thomsonian system has had to contend with every degree of violent opposition, which the tyrannic habit of opinion, stale and dregy from the schools could possibly devise. The fire of opposition still burns. It will not be surprising to you nor to your readers to hear, that the cause progresses regularly and triumphantly. The heart of every philanthropist must dilate with joy to hear the precious tidings. Well sir, tell them, publish it to the world that such is the fact.

It is an every day observation, made both by the friends and by the foes of the system, that, "there never was any thing attempted to be introduced among us, so much opposed, and nothing that has taken root so fast and permanently as the Thomsonian System of medical practice." Indeed Sir, under so many incumbering circumstances we may well be astonished. Reformation in medical practice is needed; greatly needed, we cannot live without it! If ever any reformation was needful in the world it is more indispensable now than ever, and more necessary here than in any other place in the range of my acquaintance. I can give you ample proof of the correctness of these assertions, at some future period, when more at leisure.

Some have learned by dear-bought, sad experience, that the "Regular Physician" is, "the blind man armed with a club who strikes and kills." If he does not kill he cripples. Seldom if ever fails of doing some mischief.

In this devoted place we hear of no attempt to make peace. The blind, club-armed doctor, strikes, immediately aiming at his patient. Though blind, and striking at random he seldom misses the object. They strike ten blows at the patients life, for one, judiciously aimed for the removal of disease. The effects of this blind striking, though lamentable is productive of this happy effect, it will compel the people to begin to think in earnest for themselves. The mere *ipsi dixit*, or empty say so, of the learned physician, no longer passes for an oracle of truth. It is viewed as being only his opinion, and if his interest or reputation are connected with the issue, you may still have your doubts even there. But at the best it is nothing more or better than the opinion of a fallible man, who is liable to go wide astray, under the deadly influence of that intellectual blindness, that presentment, prejudice and tyranny, which self-conceit, and pride of opinion, too often occasion. These men are not prepared to be competent and impartial judges! How can blind men judge of colours?

We have had several visitations of the Cholera. Thomsonian practitioners have had their share of patients: with the exception of one only, if I am not much mistaken, they have all recovered. The greatest blessing has been that among the number who provided themselves with the preventatives, no instance of Cholera has occurred, of course there were no cures to be effected.

There was one case which needs to be reported. This was one of the earliest attacks in this place. The

subject was well known to you, as he has been formerly a citizen of Columbus. He was a *luke-warm* member of the Thomsonian order; one of those who would rather prefer, being thought fashionable, than to pay the sacred regard to his own health and that of his family which he ought to have done.

It may not be amiss to premise here, that he was rather of a dispeptic habit (as one half of the grown people are here) of course he was accustomed to taking *cathartics* to regulate his bowels. A few days before his decease, I heard him expostulate about Thomson's system; he praised it for many of its good qualities, but he said "there was a very great imperfection in it, viz: the want of good *physic*. He must have purgatives he said, for he was in the habit of taking them, as he knew that they were good for him."

The writer remonstrated against that habit, saying that, "By thus convulsing his bowels and liver, it left them in a debilitated, torpid state: besides, it deranged the whole machine and laid it predisposed to other diseases & even engendered them in the system, turning the entire stream of perspiration, in a regurgitating current to depress the vital functions. Mr. H——, took his kind adviser for a fool, and rejoined, saying, "you cannot cheat me out of my senses." He went to the apothecary's, procured him some of Lee's pills, and \*\*\*\* it would lead me too far into particulars, minutely to detail the progressive stages and degrees of this mournful history. Suffice it to tell you that this was the cause of his death! not directly, but indirectly. The disturbed, deranged state of his bowels, occasioned by the pills he had taken, and the morbid influence produced in the system, laid him predisposed to the epidemic pestilence, he took the Cholera. His imperfect fluctuating confidence in the Thomsonian

System, induced him to call in a Calomel Doctor. In this distressing situation one was not sufficient; the first called in a second and they a third &c., until every Mercurial Doctor in the Town was there. It was great business for them to be handling a steam doctor. The result was exactly as any reasonable man would have expected—yes sir; you may be sure he died!!!

Thus we conclude the history of his case. But my dear Sir, can you withhold your sympathy? There is a feeble helpless woman, left destitute with five little children, now thrown upon the icy charity of the world, who were once well supported, by the exertion of an husband, father and friend. Who will record their history? What? say ye wise men of physic! What? O! What is to be done to repair, the irreparable, the deplorable loss they have sustained?

Could not this man have been cured and restored to his family as well as multitudes of others, who have been placed in similar circumstances? No doubt of that can be entertained, yet not a word was said! All passed over quietly! He died reputably, under the auspices of scientific hands, \* \* \* *secundum artem*!!! Suppose, in order to place the subject in a fair point of light, suppose, we say, for instance, he had employed a STEAM DOCTOR, and by some disastrous means beyond all human control he should have died under his immediate care. No matter how rational his prescriptions might have been, nor how assiduous his attention, nor how successful his former practice in similar cases! What a noise these regulars would have made! What fearful cries of murder! murder! would have been raised! What a booming tide of falsehood and slanderous tales would have rolled upon our ears! Yet, as it was, \* \* hush Gentlemen! \* \* \* all was silent as the grave! If the idea of criminality is to be attached to this case

the greater the knowledge employed about, concerned in and connected with the affair of his dissolution the greater the crime!!

How can we look on this helpless suffering family? They are bereft of the protection and support on which they were dependent for their daily bread!

Were I to attempt to enumerate the number of disastrous events similar to this, under the management of the regular faculty, that have come within the range of my own positive knowledge, I could not soon bring this communication to a close. Facts of this kind are so awfully multiplied on every hand, that the bare recollection shocks our nerves and chilly shudderings creep along our veins!

One day last December, a Doctor, the best PRACTITIONER of N——e, was called to see a child, "sick with worms," as was said. A dose of CUREALL, \* \* \* (Calomel) was left; the next day the Dr. called to "visit" his patient. Before he arrived at the house he was informed that the child was dead, and "laid out!" The Doctor was astonished! The Mother came running, and almost distracted, asked the Doctor, if it was not the medicine he had left for the child which had killed it? "I must acknowledge" said he, "that I mistook the constitution of your child—the medicine was too strong for him!" How must this man have felt, in acknowledging to the agonized Mother that he had poisoned her child! But, how must she feel, whose hands had done the deed! that Mother who had administered the deathful portion to her darling Boy? Great God! what remorse! what horror, beyond imagination must prey upon her heart-strings!

Can ignorance be any longer plead in extenuation of those medical crimes continually perpetrated among us? Can ignorance be an excuse in a country like ours where the means of

information abound? No Sir, No! The light of truth shines too strong and clear. Notwithstanding the maternal affections and honest intentions of the bereaved and afflicted Mother, must she not inevitably be subject to painful upbraidings and misgivings of mind? Thoughts like a stern vulture, must rend and torture parental feelings as long as life indures! No tears of penitence can quench the burning grief. This compunitive agony can never be totally exterminated, until this earthly tabernacle be taken down, and then! O then! Behold a "righteous judge, and man's eternal doom!"

D. F. N.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSOURI.

MOUNT ZION P.O. APRIL 3d, 1833.

• MESSRS. EDITORS:—The deep interest which I feel for, and in the success of the Thomsonian cause, justly urges me to acknowledge myself an enthusiastic Thomsonian. Yes, Gentlemen, this enthusiasm and deep interest I feel has been brought on me by the realizing of the blessed and happy effects of Dr Thomson's medicines, not only on myself and family, but in every instance in which I have administered the medicines. In September 1830, I was very seriously and distressingly attacked with the stranguary or dysuria so called by the faculty; I put myself under one of the faculty; I remained his patient until February following, (1831)—sometimes apparently better; then worse, finally I began to despair of a cure. At this time I heard of a patent doctor passing through the settlement, (the first I ever heard of a steam doctor,) I went to see him, I told him my situation; I then purchased a right; but he had not any medicines, consequently I only got my Books, I took them home and read them attentively, and the effect was that I became entirely prosolited to Dr Thomson's theory, and I thank God (but I trust not with a Pharisaical spirit,) that I was enabled to purchase so much wisdom with so small a sum of money. A few days after I was distressingly bad. I sent 25 miles for the STEAM Doctor to come and bring me some medicine. He arrived at my

house about mid-night, he gave me a portion of composition, and lay down. At this time one of my servant women, after an abortion, took cold, the inflammation ran to a high degree, her case was looked upon as a hopeless one by two of the most skillful midwives in our country. I requested this same steam doctor to take the case in hand. He attended to her strictly for two days and nights, when every unfavorable symptom gave way, and the disease yielded to the Thomsonian medicines, and she was restored to good health in a short time, which continues to this day.

The doctor then turned to my case, he gave me Thomson's course of medicine, it produced a salutary effect, then giving directions he left me. By the assistance of my companion, (good wives are useful) I went through two more courses in a few days, which made through the blessing of a Beneficent Jehovah, an effectual cure. My prayer to God is, that every man may be influenced to lay aside all self-interest, all prejudice, and all superstitious ideas, and give the theory and practice of Dr Thomson a fair trial

About fourteen years since, my companion labored under disease, I called in two Regulars, after examining all the symptoms, they came to the conclusion that she was laboring under a chronic disease of the liver. They undertook the case by giving calomel &c. raised a high state of salivation and kept it up for six weeks, by giving the sub-muriate of mercury every day, with a goodly portion of opium to prevent its acting as a cathartic—left off for two weeks—then commenced the same course, pursued it in like manner for six weeks longer—then quit her without effecting a cure. Gentlemen judge the situation of her constitution. Having realized the virtue of Dr Thomson's medicines myself, I now undertook her case. During the summer (1831) I carried her through several courses of medicine (and the effect was, that old CALOMEL was put to flight and in making his escape he raised a high state of salivation and left the field—NITRE quit his strong hold—OPIMUM holds small possessions in the digestive powers, et cetera.) and I do now unhesitatingly, and unequivocally assert, that the steam

medicine, with the blessing of God, effected a cure to the conviction of some and the astonishment of many.

I find but little difficulty, and frequently not any, in removing disease in whatsoever shape it appears in. I find from experience, that perseverance in remitting attention, and coming fully up to Dr Thomson's directions in the administration of his medicines, is all important. With the exception of two, was the first in this vicinity who purchased a right. Our board now counts 16 strict regular members, (two have been excluded.) There are several who will become members at the next meeting, who have recently purchased rights.. I am not a practitioner, yet I have been compelled from a feeling of sympathy, and a sense of duty, to attend a great many cases; such as fits, fevers, and female disease; in short, almost every form of disease, and in every case the disease has yielded in a greater or less degree to the Thomsonian medicines, and I am sanguine in the belief that ninety nine cases out of a hundred will yield under a persevering administration with genuine medicines, if attended to in due time. Gentlemen I have given you an imperfect sketch of the rise and progress of Dr Thomson's botanic medicine in my family. I could give a more minute account of many alarming and distressing cases that I have attended to, with my prescriptions, which were strictly Thomsonian administrations, and effected a cure in every case. For some months past I have deprived myself of keeping an assortment of medicine to avoid practice. A complete assortment of prepared and genuine medicine would greatly promote the system in this vicinity. Should you comply with the request of the Hon. board to which I belong and forward medicines &c. to me; in that case I shall have to give over to general practice. It is my wish, and my calculation to attend next Session of the General Convention.

Gentlemen, I am your's most respectfully

ALANSON NASH.

*For the Recorder.*

ON SELECTING A PHYSICIAN.

"Health," said some philosophical

writer, whose name I have forgotten, or perhaps never knew," is the sugar that sweetens every other enjoyment of life." Without health all other enjoyments become insipid, and lose their wonted relish. When disease assails our mortal bodies, in order for its removal, and the restoration of the desirable consolation of health; much depends on a judicious resort to appropriate means. These means are by Dr. Thomson's discoveries placed within the reach of the common citizen. Those acquainted with this system who have had the precaution to provide themselves with these safe and efficient remedies are no longer reduced to the necessity of employing strangers who feel no special interest in their welfare, or if they do, must still feel a deeper interest so to manage the concern as to advance their own personal fame, and add something to the means of obtaining their daily bread.

Whatever profession men pursue, when employed in that profession, they calculate to gain something of a pecuniary benefit from their customers. If necessity, therefore, require an appeal to our fellow beings in case of sickness, it becomes us to exercise sound discretion. Thomsonians, if wise, will not employ mineral doctors where botanic assistance can be obtained. Fashion has an imposing influence on human conduct—even when health and life are pending on the course we take, we are too often swayed by those tyrants the customs of the world.—Many think it adds something to their consequence in society to have been acquainted with, or to have it to say, they have spoken to and shook hands with some great man. They look to those who move in what is called the higher circles of society, with superstitious veneration, account them almost or quite a superior order of beings, from those who walk more quietly in the humble veil of private life. There are two classes of citizens not



likely to be benefitted by Thomsonian discoveries: those who are always cringing and whining after, and looking up to those whom they consider as born to command, and those who vainly dream that they have a right to claim that elevated station; those dependent dupes who never think and act with any ingenious degree of honest independence; and those who assume the high prerogative of a general dictation of all around them. It is chiefly among the inquisitive, candid and unassuming, whose minds are open to conviction, who prefer testimony to the whims of unfounded opinions, that the Thomsonian cause looks for patronage. To the intelligent husbandman, the mechanic, the industrious citizen, whose mind is enlightened by reading, reflection, experience and observation, it will ever be able to appeal with confidence. Their judgment will not be swayed so forcibly by the overwhelming influence of prejudice and fashion. These feel the strongest attachment to truth, for truth's sake. They consult their own interest and the interest of community, and in general are most fortunate in the choice of means of recovery, when visited by any form of disease.

Thomsonians, in making a selection of individuals to practice at large, should be careful to select such as have a good share of common sense, that have drank deep of the cup of the milk of human kindness, who are temperate, honest and benevolent, who have honorable feelings, and of course an abhorrence of mean actions, who are active, industrious, enterprising and attentive to their business, who have made themselves well acquainted with the system, who keep a supply of good medicine, and have courage and perseverance to face unmoved the frowns and flatteries of the world. Such characters should be encouraged; they will be to yourselves and families messengers of peace in an evil day.

As it has ever been the case in all professions, some are and will be wiser than some others, we may not expect the regular order of nature to be changed in relation to the botanic system of medicine. If at any time you feel the need of advice and assistance from botanic friends, or have to depend on the recommendation of others, in a place where all are strangers, you have this consolation, that the members of the friendly botanic society have so far, been remarkable for their friendly deportment in times of sickness. In practice, with very rare exceptions, they all speak with one tongue, a pure Thomsonian language.

It is not men who are governed by the strong impulse of professional pride, who are vain of the little superficial knowledge they have acquired in the schools of physic, who are making a pompous and determined stand, and look down opposition, and rise to consequence in the world at all hazards, that are qualified to attend successfully the cause of affliction, and relieve the distresses of suffering humanity. The quack, whatever garb he wears, is a self-important big feeling fellow. His ambition is to establish in the mind of others a deep impression of his personal consequence. He carries with him an affectation of knowledge beyond what others know; and our learned quacks, however unsuccessful, claim servile homage and adulation from their employers, as due to the dignified stand of the medical profession in human society.

A writer among the faculty has well observed, that "Avarice and Heartlessness never should be permitted to enter the door of a sick chamber. Where these prevail, there can be no confidence; where there is no confidence, there can be no friendship; and our physician should invariably be our friend."

A wise man will choose to be his own physician; and if circumstances require assistance, he will choose his

friend; a friend that will not dose him with destructive poisons; a friend in whose integrity he can confide. The cruel impositions that have long been practised on the credulous multitude are fast retreating before the steady march of Thomsonian light. The hustle of the regular faculty to impede the progress of his system, is like the creaching of a nest of owls when the sun shines upon them. The glory of the craft is on the wane. Knowledge is fast increasing in the earth, even in the humbler walks of society. The botanical kingdom will be again restored to the people, as surely as the gospel kingdom shall be given to the saints as such, and of every wholesome tree of the great garden of nature they may once more freely eat, equally independent of any privileged order, who, like the BRAMBLE in the ancient parable, are too willing to reign over others. MED. FRIEND.

### SUCCESS OF THE THOMSONIAN PRACTICE.

Notwithstanding the opposition and the terrible accounts published of the fatality said to be caused by the Thomsonian quacks, the practice is gaining friends rapidly in all parts of the United States; wherever it is introduced, the people hail it as a deliverance from a great evil; and many of the most respectable class of society become zealous advocates, using their influence in extending a knowledge of the system, and increasing the practice among the people.

"The Thomsonian System is spreading rapidly and extensively in this state, and arrangements are in progress for extending it further to the West and South. Many persons of the first respectability in this state have become convinced of the superiority of this system, and are advocating the cause with zeal and energy. And if the unanimous suffrage of more than eighty thousand freemen can make a man honorable, or the cause he advocates respectable, Dr Thomson's medical discoveries certainly have very strong claims to respectability."

### CAUTION TO PARENTS ON GIVING THEIR CHILDREN POISON TO KILL WORMS.

Not long since, in a town in the State of New-Hampshire, a child was taken suddenly sick, after eating bread and milk for breakfast. A Doctor was called in, who said, that the disorder was caused by worms, and gave a dose of Calomel, which threw the child into violent fits, in a short time the neighbors were called in to see the child die; but after nature had struggled for about an hour against this enemy to life, it caused vomiting, and the child threw up the poison with its breakfast. A dog being by, ate what was vomitted, and died in consequence, in about four hours after.\* The child got well.

\*The fortunate circumstance of the child throwing off its stomach what it had taken, probably saved its life, for if there was poison enough to kill a dog, it must have killed the child.

Can any person be so beside themselves as to suppose that throwing mercury into a child's stomach can have any effect upon the worms, as it is a known fact that mercury is so heavy a substance, that it immediately settles and fixes upon the coat of the stomach, while the worm is floating about in its contents—of course there is no other way to injure the worm but to poison the whole contents of the stomach, if this is done what chance is there for the life of the child. Let parents consider of these things and govern themselves accordingly.

Dr James Mann, who was Hospital Surgeon to the army of the U. States, in the year 1812, -13, and 14, relates the following case:—He says, a man at Rochester "was bled eight ounces, and within twenty-four hours took one hundred grains of calomel, one hundred grains of jalap, two ounces of castor oil, and four ounces of sulphate of soda." He adds, "this man died suffocated while walking his room."

### SICKNESS AND DEATH.

We have recent intelligence of the decease of a number of women in our

own vicinity and the surrounding country, shortly after their confinement in child-bed. A number of deaths have also occurred, occasioned by the scarlet fever; or rather, we apprehend, by the medical treatment they have usually received. Calomel and the lancet, with such active purgatives as are frequently used, it is not likely will be attended with favorable results. We hear of no such general fatality under the botanic practice. If any confidence can be placed in extensive and respectable testimony, the strictly Thomsonian practice stands unrivalled for its distinguished and general success.

The following beautiful description of the Eye forms a part of the chapter upon Light, in Arnott's Physics, a work of great interest and learning:

"But this miracle of Light would have been totally useless, and the lovely paradise of earth would have been to man still a dark and dreary desert, had there not been the twin miracle of an organ of commensurate delicacy to perceive the light, viz. of the EYE; in which there is a round cornea of such perfect transparence, placed exactly in the anterior centre of the ball, (and elsewhere it had been useless) then exactly behind this the beautiful curtain the iris, with its pupil dilating and contracting to suit the intensity of light—and exactly behind this again, the crystalline lens, having many qualities which only complex structure in human art can attain, and by the entering light forming on the retina beautiful picture and images of the objects in front, the most sensible part of the retina being where the images fall. Of these parts and conditions, had any one been otherwise than as it is, the whole eye had been useless, and light useless, and the great universe useless to man, for he could not have existed in it. Then, farther, we find that the precious organ the eye, is placed not as if by accident, somewhere near the centre of the person, but aloft on a

proud eminence, where it becomes the glorious watch-tower of the soul: and again; not so that to alter its direction, the whole person must turn, but in the head, which on a pivot of admirable structure, moves while the body is at rest; the ball of the eye, moreover, being furnished with muscles, which, as the will directs turn it with the rapidity of lightning to sweep round the horizon, or take in the whole heavenly concave; then is the delicate orb secured in a strong socket of bone, and there is over this the arched eyebrow as a cushion, to destroy the shock of blows, and with its inclined hairs to turn aside the descending perspiration, which might incommode; then there is the soft and pliant eyelid, with its beautiful fringes; incessantly wiping the polished surface, and spreading over it the pure moisture poured out by the lachrymal glands above, of which moisture the superfluity, by a fine mechanism, is sent into the nose, there to be evaporated by the current of the breath still further, instead of there being only one so precious organ, there are two: lest one by accident should be destroyed, but which two have so entire a sympathy, that they act together as only one more perfect; then the sense of sight continues perfect during the period of growth from birth to maturity, although the distance from the lens to the retina is constantly varying; and the pure liquid which fills the eye, if rendered turbid by disease or accident, is, by the action of life, although its source be the thick red blood, gradually restored to transparency. The mind which can suppose or admit that within any limits of time, even a single such organ of vision could have been produced by accident, or without design—and still more, that the millions which now exist on earth, all equally perfect, can have sprung from accident—or that the millions of millions in the past ages were all but accidents—and that the endless millions throughout the animate creation, where each requires a most peculiar fitness to the nature and circumstances of the animal, can be accident, must surely be of extraordinary character, or must have received an unhappy bias in its education."

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER,

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"

"And practice be combined with common sense."

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[No. 17.

## THE ECLECTIC.---No. 11.

Being a discussion of AMERICAN rights and privileges, as it regards the PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, and the rights of discovery: By B. WATERHOUSE, M. D. Professor of theory and practice of Physic, and Lecturer on Natural History in the University at Cambridge, Mass.

It was insinuated in our first number, that it was a most cruel species of calumny to accuse a man publicly of HOMICIDE, because he has introduced a new mode of practice, without having had a regular or fashionable course of education, and because his materia medica contained articles unknown to the colleges.

A "quack" is a cunning, tickling fellow, who mixes up drugs in a disguised form, keeps the component articles secret, and advertises them as certain remedies for almost every disorder.---- But this is not the way of SAMUEL THOMSON; he tells you fairly his discoveries in the vegetable kingdom, describes the external appearance of each plant, that you may recognise them while growing, and recounts their medical virtues as far as he is acquainted with them from his own experience. He goes further, and tells you how to compound them, and cautions you against such mixture of them as would destroy their original specific qualities, which knowledge is natural chemistry; and informs you of the doses safe and proper to be given, all of which must have been the result of his own patient observation and judgment. Yet has this lonely man of experience, alias, EMPIRIC, been not only persecuted by many of the faculty, in a manner disgraceful to the profession, but absolutely carried hand-cuffed to a dungeon at Newburyport as a murderer!!

After relieving the sick, by his new and peculiar means, to the comfort and surprise and joy of many, he has been deprived in several instances of his

just reward, because he was not a regular physician, but learnt his business, as did the greatest statuary and painters, from nature, and not by following the capricious rules of man. This treatment led him, at length, to seek redress in the laws of the land made and provided for "encouragement of learning," and which in a measure secures to inventors and discoverers their due rights and privileges. It appears from Thomson's writings, and we form our opinions from them alone, that he obtained his PATENT by first petitioning the Hon. John Q. Adams, Secretary of State, and then underwent a close investigation by Dr. Wm. Thornton, superintendent of the patent office, who is a physician distinguished for his learning and talents; after which his letters patent was signed by the wise and wary President Monroe.

I have read the schedule containing the specifications referred to in the letters patent, and here transcribe the description of his principle article, viz: the Lobelia Inflata, which is a biennial plant, growing about twelve or fifteen inches high, with leaves the size of mint, and pods the size of a white bean, containing very small seeds. In rich soil and shady places it sometimes grows twice that height. It may be found in the first stages of its growth at all times through the summer, from the size of a six cent piece to the bigness of a dollar, and even larger, lying flat on the ground, like a rose pressed down in order that it may bear the weight of snow which usually lays upon it during the winter. In spring it is yellow and pale, but when the returning sun spreads forth its enlivening rays, it lifts up its leaves and shoots forth a stalk the height of twelve or fifteen inches, with a number of branches, bearing up its leaves with its growth; and sometimes in rich soils and shady places it attains twice its ordinary size. In July it puts forth small pointed, pale blue

blossoms, which are followed by small pods. This pod is an exact resemblance of the human stomach, having an inlet, (the cardia,) and an outlet, (pylorus) higher than the middle, from the first it receives its nourishment, and by the outlet discharges its seeds. It comes to maturity about the first of September, when the leaves and pods turn yellowish. This is the best time to gather it. It is what is called by botanists, a biennial plant, having only two years existence.

The *Lobelia Inflata* is a plant common to all parts of this country, [New-England.] Wherever the land is fertile enough to yield support for its inhabitants, it may be found. It is confined to no soil that is fit for cultivation, from the highest mountain to the lowest vallies. In hot and wet seasons it is the most plenty on dry and warm lands—in hot and dry seasons, on clayey lands. When the season is cold, whether wet or dry, it rarely makes its appearance; and if the summer and autumn be very dry, the seed does not come up—of course very little will be found the next season. I have been in search of the herb from Boston to Canada, and was not able to collect more than two pounds of it: and in some seasons I have not been able to collect any. This was the case in the year 1807.

This plant is different in one very important particular, from all others that I have knowledge of, viz: the same quantity will produce the same effect in all stages of its growth, from its first appearance till it comes to maturity. But the best time for gathering it is when the leaves and the pods begin to turn yellow, for then the seeds are ripe, and you have all that can be of this valuable plant. It should now be cut and spread out in a large airy room and kept clean, and sheltered from a damp atmosphere in the night. When perfectly dry, shake out the fine seeds, and pick off the leaves and pods, and preserve them separate.

This herb is prepared for use in 3 different ways: 1st, that of the leaves and pods in the form of powder; 2d, that of spiritous tincture, made from the green herb; 3dly, the seeds reduced to a fine powder, and used as hereafter mention-

ed. Then Thomson details the particular management of each of these three heads, and that in a judicious and prudent manner. He makes one remark on the compiler of the *American Dispensatory*, which we shall quote as a specimen of the "EMPIRIC'S" shrewdness, previously reminding our reader of the vague measure of a tea-spoon: a now fashioned Boston tea-spoon holding, perhaps, twice the quantity of the old fashioned tea-spoons in the country---"Dr Thatcher," says he, "undertakes to make it appear that the late effects he tells about its producing, owing to the quantity given, and says that I administered a tea-spoon of the powder; and when he comes to directions himself for using it, (the emetic weed) says, that from ten to twenty grains may be given with safety. It appears strange that different quantities should produce such different effects in the operation of medicine: if a tea-spoonful (containing twenty grains) given by an Empiric, its effects are fatal; but if the same quantity be administered by a learned Doctor, and called grains it is an useful medicine!!!!"

SAMUEL THOMSON, has made some other remarks on the chemical part of the *American Dispensatory*, intended to shew that the country "Quack" is a pretty good match for any Pharmacopolist. Retorts seldom do service where the lives and characters of men are concerned. Dr Thatcher, under the head of *Lobelia*, has said sufficient to injure the character of any medical man of unequivocal reputation, yet it comes not up to the bitterness and unfairness of another medical and botanical publication, namely, that by Dr Jacob Bigelow, Rumford Professor and Lecturer on *Materia Medica* and *Botany* in Harvard University.

A critical review and examination of the article entitled *Lobelia Inflata*, in the first volume of that work, must be reserved for a future number. In the meantime, if any Botanist or Physician, or traveller, has had a knowledge of the *Lobelia Inflata*, besides the very short description by Linnaeus, with its medicinal virtues and uses in asthma and other diseases, prior to the year 1800, he would render a service to philosophy and morals by communicating



it through the medium of some newspaper.

### AN ECLECTIC.

## TRAITS OF INDIAN CHARACTER.

From the Philadelphia Com. Herald

**"ADVERTISING FOR RAIN."**—We are reminded, on noticing in a neighboring paper an article with the above heading, of a circumstance which we will briefly relate.

We were in the Choctaw Country, and at a place, at which a goodly number of Indians had assembled. Among them we noticed one who separated himself, on almost all occasions, from the rest. He wore an air of assumed dignity—and looked down on his fellow Indians, with something bordering on contempt. We were led from these circumstances, to inquire who he was? We received for answer—"A rain maker." "A rain maker?" we enquired, "O yes," said the old interpreter, "we have several in our nation."

Being curious to know a little more of the office and dignity of this pretender, we took the interpreter, and approaching the rain maker, shook hands, and inquired in what his great power over the clouds consisted? And how it was that to him had been imparted a gift of so much importance? He crossed his legs as he leaned against a tree, and folded his arms, and looked at us for the space of half a minute, without saying a word. He then replied, "My power comes from the Great Spirit." How long, we asked, has it been since you received it? O, he said, a long time. How did you get it? Why, I was sitting one evening under a bush, the country was very dry; there was no water. It had not rained for a long time. The cattle in the settlement were all famishing, the dogs went about with their tongues out of their mouths, their eyes were red, and they went mad! I looked up from under the bush, and saw a dark place in the sky, I heard a voice, it said; "Call for rain,"—and I did call. But no rain fell—I knew I was to be a rain-maker. Our people have always had rain-makers among them. So looking up again, a flash of lightning came out of the cloud, I heard

another voice, it said: I will send you a thunderbolt—pick it up—keep it, and when the earth is dry, hold it up towards the sky, and it will bring down the rain. At that moment another flash came, and the bolt struck a big tree, tore it down to the ground, and buried itself in the earth! I went, dug for it and got it.

So saying he turned and walked away. We had heard only enough to whet our curiosity—so we asked the interpreter if he thought we could get a sight of that thunderbolt? He shook his head. We were, however, in earnest. Knowing something of the Indian character, we authorized the interpreter to negotiate with the rain maker for a sight of his thunderbolt. Three days were spent in the attempt. On the fourth, just as we were setting off to cross the country, we received a message. It was couched in mysterious language. "Go into the Prairie, and stop there for an hour." What for? "The rain maker wants to shake hands with you." Where is the rain maker? "Gone." Gone where?—"On the trail, that crosses the Prairie. He says, bring old P. with you." In the course of the evening we arrived at the skirting of this ocean of flowers, and as we enjoyed the grandeur of the sight—the rays of the setting sun imparting a glow to its billowy surface, and kindling into life and beauty the thousands of flowers of all hues that were gently undulating before the evening breeze, we heard, on our left a rustling—and looking, saw two Indians, one was the rain-maker.

We alighted from our horses, and shook hands. He pointed to a thicket hard by—and waved his other hand to his companion to stay where he was. Arriving at the spot indicated, the rain-maker sat down—and by his motions let us know he expected us to sit also. Being seated, he spoke. The interpreter said, "He says he has come to shew us the thunderbolt—and wants to know if you will give him what you promised?" We said we never took back an offer to an Indian. The rain-maker listened—looked around him—listened again—then spoke. The interpreter explained—"He says, this is a great gift—that he has made"

mind, to shew it, but if the Indians knew he had exposed his thunderbolt they would not believe in him---and his trade would leave him." We told him to make himself easy---we were leaving the nation, and that his secret should be kept---at least from his people ---- Then said he, (taking a roll of skins from his bosom which was confined around his neck by a piece of deer skin,) here it is. He began gradually to unwrap it--fold after fold was unwound; at last it dropt from the inner covering. He picked it up quickly, and reaching it towards us said----"look, but don't touch it." We were at some loss to preserve our gravity, on recognizing the thunderbolt to be the round part of a decanter stopper!!!

We looked gravely, and lifted up our eyes---breathed a few long breaths, and paying him the price of the honor conferred upon us, mounted our horses, and entered the Prairie, leaving the rain-maker to go back, and exercise his art upon the elements, and the credulity of his countrymen.

The reader may as well be told that a belief in the power of certain Indians to make rain, is as fixed as the hills---that in great droughts these rain-makers levy heavy contributions upon their deluded countrymen, and taking their stations, go to work, to produce the wished for showers. The secret lies here; they continue their incantations for a longer, or shorter time, but always till it does rain. There is no exception taken to delays, since these are accounted for on the principle that the evil spirit at that time is more intent on keeping the earth dry, and making man and beast suffer---and hence the contest between him and the rain-maker is more severe, and of longer duration. The rain always follows the incantations,---though it may be six months coming. The rain-maker, of course, takes the credit of producing it when it does come.

These rain-makers live very easy and comfortable lives---and carry about them something of the dignity of Priests, or Prophets, and have a corresponding reverence shown them.

We were thinking it would answer the same purpose to send for a Choc-

taw rain-maker, as to "advertise for rain."

#### REMARKS ON THE PRECEDING STORY OF THE RAIN-MAKER.

Pontifical robes, [and sacerdotal black, have been extensively worn, like the uniform of a military officer: badges of distinction, to distinguish them from the vulgar multitude, but alas! such ornaments have been too seldom needed to distinguish them from the meek and humble followers of Him who was despised and rejected of men: the "man of sorrows, who was acquainted with grief," who was "meek and lowly of heart." The regular faculty have also had their costume, but it has been an useless device, for they may be easily known by their works. The mortality that has attended the general practice is too notorious to escape observation. When you see the sad hearse trundling the dead to the graveyard, and you begin to enquire what image and superscription is this? How frequently do we learn the general impression to be, it is the regular doctor's.

We wonder at the poor illiterate Indians being imposed on by the rain-maker, but have we not cause for greater admiration at the folly and mental imbecility of civilized and learned nations in being the dupes of equally ridiculous impositions.

"It is not the least extraordinary feature in the history of medical superstition," says a modern writer, "that it should so frequently involve in its trammels, persons who, on every other occasion, would resent with indignation any attempt to talk them out of their reason, and still more so, to persuade them out of their senses; and yet we have continual proofs of its extensive influence over powerful and cultivated minds. In ancient times, we may adduce the wise Cicero, and no less philosophic Aurelius, while in modern times we need only call to recollection the number of persons of superior rank and intelligence, who were actually persuaded to submit to the magnetizing operations of Miss Prescott, and some of them were even induced to believe that a beneficial influence had been produced by the spell of this modern

**Circe.** Lord Bacon, with all his philosophy, betrayed a disposition to believe in the virtue of charms and amulets; and Boyle, seriously recommends the thigh bone of an executed criminal as a powerful remedy in dysentery.

Amongst the remedies of Sir Theodore Mayerne, known to commentators as the doctor CARUS of Shakespere, who, was Physician to three English sovereigns, and who by his personal authority, put an end to the distinction of chemical and galenical practitioners in England, we shall find the secundines of a woman in her first labour with a male child; the bowels of a mole cut open alive; mummy made of the lungs of a man who had died a violent death; with a variety of remedies equally absurd and alike disgusting."

When Clemens the murderer of his wife and eight children was hung at Morgantown, in Monongahalia county Virginia, the rope by which he was suspended was sought after with avidity, by the credulous sons of superstition. And he who was fortunate enough to get a few inches of a broken string, concluded he had found a certain remedy for epilepsy, hysterics and all spasmodic affections; and more than all, a sovereign antidote for witchcraft. When you see people wearing a dead woman's beads to cure king's evil, or parents splitting a young ash sappling, and putting a child through the chasm, and leaving the tree to grow, to cure a rupture, or whenever you witness any similar foolery among civilized people, you may pity, but do not ridicule Indian confidence in the supernatural powers of the rain-maker.

The Thomsonian Philosophy understood, presents a sovereign remedy for all such superstition. It convinces us that there is a regular and certain connection between cause and effect. His system of practice is rational. It presents itself in the panoply of demonstration—leaves no room for the vagaries of a disordered imagination to enslave our minds. He directs us to a simple, intelligible, rational efficient course for the removal of disease, without any of the appendages of that gloomy idolatry that has so long bewildered, de-

graded and enslaved the most enlightened portions of the world.

From the Boston Patriot.

#### THOMSONIAN SYSTEM OF PRACTICE

"Died in Surry, Me. on the 24th ult. suddenly, Samuel Hill, Esq. aged 61. The circumstances attending his death are painful in the extreme. In a word, he died a victim to the Thomsonian system of practice! He was unwell, but able at 10, A. M. to walk into the field, and give some directions. Soon after, the process so often detailed commenced, of steaming, with the repeated use of lobelia, or Indian tobacco, cayenne, &c. and before 2 o'clock, P. M. he was a corpse — [*From the Boston Medical Intelligencer of June 12, 1827.*]

Now I would ask any honorable candid man, whether it be fair to publish an article of this kind without mentioning names, circumstances, and other needful illustrations of the case? Suppose there should appear in a newspaper an article of this sort:—Yesterday S. H. Esq. who was well enough to walk into his fields to direct his workmen at 10 o'clock, after using the *Vapor Bath* in Central Court, conducted by the editor of the *Medical Intelligencer*, was found dead in his bed; a victim to the pernicious fumes of sulphur!" Would not any friend to the practice, and to the conductor of it, demand that the particulars of it should be detailed, so that every man should be able to judge fairly of the practice, and justly of the administrator of it?

Sudden deaths happen to all men, even when apparently enjoying high health; and there is no practitioner of extensive business but what has been sometimes startled at the sudden extinction of life in his patients. To hunt up an isolated case of unlooked for fatality and publish it in order to censure a particular method of practice, is any thing but honorable. The

advocates of the Thomsonian system, and the friends of the skilful author of it, have a right to call upon the editor of the Boston Medical Intelligencer to detail the particular circumstances of the case, and to be particular as to the name of the person who performed the operation of steaming and the exhibition of the cayenne and Indian tobacco; for Dr. Thomson himself has not been within a thousand miles of Surry in Maine these many months. In all these cases let *truth* appear; and as fatal cases have unexpectedly occurred under every system of practice, let the circumstances attending them be fairly related, so that the public at large, as well as medical men, may be able to judge fairly of the merits, or demerits of men and their practice.

It is not in the power of all the medical men in the United States to plunge Samuel Thomson under the surface. His system, having the Sun in the firmament for its origin, is too far advanced to be shaken by the desultory paragraphs, now and then inserted in the Boston Medical Intelligencer. It is laid on the foundation of a great law of nature, as broad as gravitation, and as lasting as its laws; so that while "*the faculty*" are blown about by every wind of doctrine; the system of the ancients, who made the *Sun the god of physic*, and is now known under the appellation of the *Thomsonian system*, will flourish until that sun, the source of light and life; shall set in darkness, and the doctrine be shrouded in the Cimmerian darkness of Gothic barbarity.

Thomson says the stomach is the fountain or source of heat in the body, and the continuation of it depends on the food digested therein. He considers nourishing food as so much fuel to keep up the necessary heat in the system. Concerning the best articles for fuel, that is a separate question. "As to the great *principle* of LIFE, or from whence came the *vital spark*, or how

it was first kindled in us, is beyond the comprehension of man to know; and it would be no advantage if he did. It is sufficient for us to know that it is so. We have it from Scripture that God created man out of the dust of the earth, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and *he became a living soul*. It becomes our duty then, to make use of all those means, that our reason tells us are best calculated to continue that life, and make it answer all the purposes designed by the CREATOR." Is this the language of a fool, a madman, and a quack? or the words of truth and soberness?

Passing from a theoretical idea, take a specimen of a practical one. "An idea generally prevails, that much benefit is derived from applying to wounds certain healing substances, as salves, ointments, &c. But this is founded altogether in error. It can not be supposed for a moment, by a rational mind, *that any thing can be added* to a part which will cause it to heal. The truth is, NATURE is sufficient for every purpose of restoring: part from injuries, if proper means are taken to *expel the cold*, and keep up the power of vital heat." [See more on this subject in a printed lecture delivered in Concert Hall on the Thomsonian system, by Col. E. G. House.]

Were HIPPOCRATES to come again amongst men, I am confident that Thomson would stand erect in the rank of his favorites; because they both pursued the same track, and both acknowledged *Nature* to be the curer of diseases, while the skilful physician was only her minister, and not her dogmatical dictator.

We would fain know if any man can be named in these United States who has enriched our materia medica with so many valuable articles as Samuel Thomson? The single article of lobelia, whose valuable qualities he was the first to discover and bring into use, entitles him to the thanks of his fellow men, notwithstanding.

ing it has been denounced as a poison in American Dispensatories, in American elementary books of botany, and even from the bench of the Judiciary, and is still echoed from every ignorant blockhead claiming the privilege of M. D. Yet it is beyond all doubt with those who have used it, the most efficacious emetic hitherto discovered and made public; and it is as safe as effectual; and it ought to bear the name of *Thomson* instead of *Lobel*, who did not discover the plant, although he has been honored by the name of it. Nor did Linnæus speak of its virtues, nor any one else before Samuel Thomson, to whom the honor entirely belongs.

We marvel at the temerity of some editors of medical scraps in attacking such an ambidexterous man as Doctor Thomson, lest he should have recourse to retaliation. He could make a horrible book of cases. He has contemplated such a publication; and has committed to paper a series of facts and cases in physic and surgery, in his laconic, shrewd and caustic manner, some of which would make men and women shudder! He has even had the hardihood to go beyond the verge of private practice; and this is hardly to be wondered at. This man, with the habit of free and open communication, has been belied, and misrepresented; betrayed and defrauded by an individual in whom his honest simplicity confided, and also has disgraced his system by one of the most contemptible publications that ever came from a printing press. He has been moreover handcuffed, put into a dungeon, and indicted for murder; and now an editor of a paper advertises the sudden death of a gentleman in Maine as a victim to his administration of the Indian tobacco; and this too in his absence. Thomson never used the Indian tobacco internally, or externally only for the itch.

If the empirical physician Thomson be that bold, ignorant and dangerous

"quack" as some represent him, let some competent authority take up the business of enquiring into it. Let the Medical Societies and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences conspire to check the great evil, by leading to some legal process. Lewis the 16th did so in the case of *Messmer's magnetism*, and destroyed the popular delusion. But should they find the practice not only safe but salutiferous, let them interpose the ægis of their influence between this skilful and indefatigable man and envy; and if they cannot reward him for his labors, at least protect him from farther persecution.

### BOERHAAVE.

In order to do full justice to the editor of the Medical Intelligencer, we copy from that paper of the 17th of July, the following:

"*Correction.*—at page 73d of this volume, June 12, we copied from a newspaper the death of Samuel Hill, as occurring from the Thomsonian practice in Surry, *Maine*; it should have been Surry in *New Hampshire*. We understand the deceased was a brother in law and a near neighbor to Thomson, by whom the fatal process was ordered."

The editor of the Intelligencer, in correcting an error which was of no consequence, has made another of much more importance. This reminds us of the editor of the Dublin Journal, who inserted in that paper the following—"Errata, in our last, for *her* grace the duke of Dorset, read *his* grace the duchess of Dorset." In the first place, as to Dr. Thomson being a near neighbor to the deceased, it is a well known fact that he has only occasionally been in that town, and then only when his business made it necessary. As to the fatal process being ordered by Thomson, we think the editor must be equally in error; for at the time this fatal process was said to be ordered, he was in the western part of the State of New York, more than three hundred miles from Surry. Now we shall take the liberty to state as our opinion, that when an editor publishes to the world, an erroneous statement, with a manifest inten-



tion to injure an individual, without a knowledge of the facts, he is equally culpable as though he published a wilful falsehood.

We were in hopes to have published in this number a statement of the facts relating to the death of Mr. Hill; but have not been able to obtain them in season. In the mean time we shall insert the following information on the subject, which was communicated by one of the family to a friend, viz: that Mr. Hill had for a long time been in a decline, and had frequently spit blood; that he had neglected taking medicine for some time past, but had of late frequently urged the necessity of it, or it would be too late; that he had often said that his life had been protracted by the use of medicine. On the day of his death he was very suddenly and violently attacked, when the family made use of all the means in their power to relieve him without effect; but those who best knew the circumstances had no belief that the medicine caused his death.

It is probable that his death was owing to the breaking of an ulcer on the lungs; similar cases often happen in this complaint; and when under the care of a regular doctor, it is not thought very wonderful.

### QUACK MEDICINES.

Under this head we shall rank all secret medicine, such as are prescribed by the faculty, as well as those nostrums that are hawked about and sold through every part of the country, under as many different names as the ingenuity of the proprietors can devise. There can be no good reason for keeping us ignorant of the medicine we are compelled to swallow, no more than there would be to keep us ignorant of the food we eat; except it be for purposes of speculation. If the people were to know of what materials those secret compounds were made, they would not be willing to pay the exorbitant price asked for them; neither would the sick be willing to risk their lives and health by taking them.

There is an almost universal dread of taking mineral preparations, or poisons of any kind, among the people generally; and it very often happens that the doctor is required to pledge himself that

there is no mercury in the prescription before the patient will take it. Yet the sick are induced to take without fear, any of those secret compounds, sold under various names, in which either mercury or arsenic forms the principal articles; because they are ignorant of this fact, and are recommended as a certain cure for almost every disease the very reasons why they ought to be avoided.

What are called simple remedies, that is, such vegetable productions as the God of nature has provided for our relief in sickness, are despised by the thoughtless and ignorant, on account of their being simple and well known to all at the same time their use is ridiculed by the faculty, because if relied on as a remedy in disease, it would materially affect their interest, and lessen their importance among the people. There is no class of men more averse to taking themselves or administering to their families what are called apothecary's medicine, than the physicians; the reasons we shall not undertake to point out, but will leave it for conjecture.

The prices of all those nostrums sold through the country is regulated by the faith of the public in the wonderful cures that are said to be performed by their use, and not by their intrinsic value; it is therefore necessary to keep the people ignorant of what they are composed, in order to impose upon their credulity and rob them of their money. If a compound that cost two cents was to be offered for four, which would be thought a great profit in ordinary dealing, no one would buy it or have any faith in its virtues; yet a dollar is readily paid for a phial of it, when the real cost is not more than a few cents, and its value as a medicine much less. This however is not the greatest evil, for many of these nostrums contain poison, though in a very small quantity; yet by the frequent use of them, the constitution is impaired, and a diseased habit acquired, which eventually destroys the patient.

The same reasoning will apply with equal truth to most of the medicine kept for sale in the shops of the apothecaries. The physicians write their prescriptions in a language not understood by the common people, so that the latter can have no idea of the value of what they

have to pay for. This gives the apothecary an opportunity to fix any price he pleases on his medicine, and operates as a monopoly. The following short story will give the reader some idea of the profits they make. An aged person who had kept an apothecary's shop many years, being joked by a friend on the enormous profits he made in his business, which he said must be three or four hundred per cent. Poh! said the old gentleman that is nothing—I will give you the following as a specimen of our profits, and you may judge for yourself.—A pound of antimony costs forty cents, this will make 3000 doses, sufficient to vomit any one; which are sold at twelve and a half cents per dose—now make your own calculation of what it comes to. His friend on tasting it found that what cost 40 cents could be made to bring 375 dollars.

The late W. T. Conway was the most successful vender of quack medicine that has ever appeared in this country. He was enabled by an artful course of management, and the impositions practiced upon a credulous people, to accumulate a large fortune, though he supported a splendid style of living, and his expenses must have been very great. He paid for printing and advertising over three thousand dollars a year. Yet for all this he died a rich man. By the sale of his nostrums only, he gained more money in a few years, than any merchant in the most extensive line of business, could make during his life. The little good his compounds might have done has been made sufficiently public; for there were few instances, in which a cure happened either by accident or any other cause, but that the case was vauntingly published through the country. The injury done to the constitutions of the thousands who made use of them, will rest with him, for they can be known only to the sufferers.

It would have been well for the public, if Dr. Conway's skill in preparing and vending nostrums, had been suffered to rest with him in the grave; but it seems that a Mr. Kidder has sent to England and bought of the widow all his recipes, and the country will again probably be inundated with all kinds of pills, balsams, drops, ointments, salves, &c. and

will be sold under the sanction of his name. We have it from good authority, that the bases of many of these compounds is either corrosive sublimate or arsenic, two of the most deadly poisons known; and would therefore caution the public against the use of them, particularly internally.

#### ANECDOTES.

A celebrated doctor who had introduced bleeding and calomel as an infallible remedy in fevers, had attended a gentleman for some time, when the patient finding himself to grow worse under his treatment, proposed the calling of another physician. "With all my heart, my dear friend," said the doctor; upon which the gentleman named a certain physician who it was well known had no faith in his infallible remedies, and whose practice had been founded more upon experience than fashionable theories. "No," replied the modest son of Mercury, "I will never consult with him."—"If you will not attend with Dr. ———, said the gentleman, *he must attend without you; that is all.*" A few days after the former seeing the latter going to his old patient, called out to him; "He is out of danger already; I defy you to kill him."—"Why," replied the empiric, "after his passing through your hands, he may, indeed, safely set death at defiance."

"Dr. Rush, in that emphatic style which is peculiar to himself, calls mercury the *Sampson* of medicine. In his hands, and in those of his partisans, it may, indeed, be compared to Sampson; for I verily believe they have slain more Americans with it, than ever Sampson slew of the Philistines. The Israelite slew his thousands, but the Rushites have slain their tens of thousands."

A quaker was walking in the town of ———, in company with a learned doctor. In the course of conversation, the *Friend* mentioned the many false, needless, and hurtful fashions and customs of the day; and many institutions which he considered useless; he also observed that many things were wrongly named, mentioning the particulars.

As they proceeded, they came to a

*medical college.* "Friend, (said the doctor) do you think this building is rightly named? No, replied the Quaker. "If you were to put a sign on this building, (said the doctor) what would you have on it?" Indeed, said the friend, if I were to do justice to the building, by giving a true sign, I would have a horse & a rider painted *pale*, with this text under the man and horse, Rev. vi. 8. "And I looked, and beheld a *pale* horse; and his name that sat on him was *death*, and hell followed him.

#### EPIGRAM.

When quacks, (as quacks may,  
By good luck, to be sure,)  
Blunder out at haphazard  
A desperate cure.

In the prints of the day  
With due pomp and parade.  
CASE, *Patient*, and Doctor  
Are amply displayed.

All this is quite just,  
And no mortal can blame it,  
If they save a man's life  
They've a right to proclaim it;

But there's reason to think  
They might save more lives still,  
Did they publish a list  
Of the numbers they kill.

We leave to our readers the application of the above epigram: first observing that a quack is one who deceives the people by pretending to a knowledge he does not possess; or one who manages to cheat them out of their money by an artful, tricking course of the practice of physick. Whether there are not more characters of this description among those who have nothing to recommend them but their diploma, than among those who depend on experience and common sense, the public must decide: and if they could divest themselves of prejudice, we think there would be no doubt of the subject.

#### DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

It is almost universally the case that those complaints to which children are subject, and which hurries vast numbers of them to an early

grave, arise from overloading the stomach. A child in health always has an appetite, and never appears to be satisfied except when eating—Mothers are too apt to indulge them in excess, by giving whatever they ask for; the consequence is that more food is taken into the stomach than can be digested; and forms a cold mass of phlegm, which if not removed by either nature or art, generates disease by destroying in a greater or less degree the digesture. The natural sequence is that canker gets into the stomach; perspiration ceases; chills and hot flashes follow, and the whole system becomes diseased. In this state of the case the doctor sent for, who gives small doses of opium, which increases the difficulty and when the distress becomes alarming, blisters are ordered all over the stomach and bowels. This is generally the last thing done, except to give laudanum to stupify and cause death as it is said, to die easy; for few survive this course of practice.

If mothers would have confidence in themselves and undertake to cure without a doctor, we feel confident that by an early application of such means as are within their power many lives might be saved, and much distress avoided. To say the least there would be a far greater chance for them to live, if all violent remedies were dispensed with and nothing but simples made use of together with good nursing.

When children first discover symptoms of disease, it may be known by their being fretful and troublesome; this is evidence of a disordered stomach, and will continue till the cause becomes seated; when they will be stupid and inclined to sleep. The sooner a cure is attempted, the better will be the chance of removing the cause of disease. The first thing to be attended to is to keep them warm, and use every means to cause perspi-

tion. Give a gentle emetic to clear the stomach; then follow with a strong tea made of whatever is known to be good for canker. Bayberry root bark is the best thing known. Steep some of this in milk and feed them often with it sweetened. The steam-bath, when properly applied, is very good, and will always give relief. Injections made of the bayberry tea, with milk in it sweetened, should be often given. If the child appears faint and languid, wet the face and stomach with cold vinegar, and after steaming, wash them all over with the same. Offer them drink often or they may suffer for the want of it.

By pursuing this plan faithfully we feel perfectly convinced that very few cases would fail of being successful. It has often been tried in the various complaints of children, and we know of no instance that it has failed to remove the disease and restore them to health, without doing any injury to the constitution.

### DYSENTERY.

This complaint prevails very much at this season of the year, and is extremely distressing, often proving fatal, if not attended to in its first stages. Children and young people are more subject to it than others. We can give no better rule for the treatment of this disease than by copying Dr. Thomson's directions, which were the result of long experience, and have proved more successful in giving relief in this distressing complaint, than any that has been discovered.

"It is caused by cold, which gets the ascendancy over the inward heat so as to draw all the determining powers inward; the stomach is disordered, the digestive powers are lost, the bowels become coated with canker, food is not digested so as to afford any nourishment or heat to the system, and all the juices flow inward and pass off by the common passage. The

canker makes the bowels very sore and when any thing passes them it causes excruciating pain. The best plan of treatment is to carry the patient through a regular course of medicine, and repeat it, if occasion should require, every day till relief is obtained. During the operation give the chicken broth, and after the disease is checked, give occasionally a little brandy and loaf sugar burned together, and a strong tea of poplar bark. Give the syrup (No. 2) two or three times a day until entirely recovered; and the biters, (No. 4) may be given night and morning to restore the digesture.—Care must be taken to keep up the inward heat in the interim, by giving occasionally No. 2 in a tea of No. 3, sweetened. Steaming is very important in this complaint, and injections must often be administered."

"Let the public be assured, that all quack medicines are disapproved and condemned by the whole medical profession to a man. Every enlightened and highminded physician, who has a due respect for the dignity of his profession, or any regard for the welfare of the community, will, if he has made any discovery or improvement, publish it to the world, and let every man try it and test its utility for himself.—Human health is a matter of too much importance to be made the object of pecuniary speculation."—*Salem Gazette.*

We know not what the above writer means by quack medicines, except it be such compounds as are sold by the apothecaries, and puffed up by pompous advertisements, under the names of *panaceas*, *catholicons*, &c. the articles of which they are composed being kept secret from the people. Admitting this to be the case, there can certainly be no truth in what he asserts; for it is a fact, which he nor no one else can deny, that nearly, if not all, those secret compounds, were in-

vented and introduced into use by the "medical profession." Many of them bear the name of some distinguished physicians as the inventor; and they are frequently recommended by certificates signed by others of the faculty. What is the object of all this but speculation?

The writer certainly does not mean to condemn as quack medicine, those remedies found in the vegetables of our country: the value and use of which are well known to the people, and can be by them as safely and advantageously administered as by the faculty.

### MUTATION OF MATTER.

Regarding the works of creation as a great whole, we perceive that an essential part of the plan is to make all parts mutually and reciprocally dependent upon each other, for the preservation of due equilibrium. Change of form is indispensable; loss of individual life must occur; the uninterrupted action of all laws, and modifications of laws, is essential to the security of the entire arrangement. But destruction, that is *annihilation* of matter in the existing constitution of the universe, is impossible. Solids may be disintegrated, reduced to dust, changed into fluids, or be driven to assume the æri-form or gaseous state. Still, it can be in no part destroyed—it occupies space—possesses new qualities—retains a peculiar modification of existence, and is capable of eventually occupying a situation similar to that whence it was displaced, and of again returning to the state which it was previously forced to assume.

### COMMUNICATIONS.

LONDONBERRY, CHESTER CO. PA.

MAY 6th 1833.

Gentlemen:—It is 14 years the 19th of last month, since I purchased a Right to use Dr. Thomson's medicines, and have found them to answer the purpose in all attacks of disease which

have occurred in my family ever since.

In October last, I received from Thomson (through his Agent At Kneeland,) an Agency, authorising to "administer, use and sell," his medicines &c. and commenced the practice of this system of medicine about the first of January. Since this I have been constantly employed, and although I have attended upwards of one hundred patients laboring under the various forms of disease common to our climate, yet not one has died who commenced and continued under my care. Indeed there has been but two deaths among those to whom I administered medicine,—the one was an infant,—as soon as I saw it, I told its father it was dying and that I could do nothing for it. I advised him to send for a regular physician if he thought it could be saved; but his reply was, your vegetable medicines will not save it, I am sure their's can't. I steamed it,—and administered but a little medicine to it, as I saw it would be of no use. It died in about four hours after I saw it, & it was soon found that I steamed it to death! The other was a man who had the Rheumatism and had the appearance of being Dropsical and Gouty—he had been unable to put on his own shoes or stockings for several years, and was pronounced incurable by several of the Regulars; and as a last resort, he applied to me. I carried him through four courses of medicine, from the 14th to the 25th of January, and to my mind he was evidently getting better, I saw nothing of his symptoms but what was encouraging—his swollen limbs began to diminish in size, his pains, which before were dead and heavy, began to be quick, shooting and lively. Respiration which for years appeared to be depressed and almost suspended, was now to a good degree restored: he had no fever, but complained of disagreeable sensations in his stomach, and that his appetite was failing, and instead of giving the restoratives which I furnished him, (Nos. 4 and 5) made of the best articles, he resorted to physic! This increased the difficulty of which he complained, and becoming alarmed (and through the persuasion of the enemies of the Thomsonian system,) he



dismissed me. A few weeks after this I employed a physician under whose care he continued until he died, which was about ten weeks after I put him through the last course, and he was hardly laid in his grave before it was reported from one end of the county to the other, that he died in my hands over the Steam! But to give you an idea of the opposition I meet with from the friends of fashionable torture, I must tell you that I have been accused of killing some whom I never saw, and of steaming others to death, to whom I never administered any medicine whatever. Of Mrs Lydia Walton who has been under my care for 14 weeks past, it has been reported that I killed her, and according to report she has been lead and buried three different times within that period, yet she lives to use, and rejoice in the Thomsonian medicines. Her disease was Epilepsy—her fits became regular and monthly at the change of the moon. They would continue for a week at each attack, having as many as from 12 to 20 every twenty-four hours! She has been afflicted with this disease about eight years! and could obtain no relief from the doctors in this county, Philadelphia or the Dutch Doctors!!! When I undertook her case, her senses appeared nearly destroyed. She is now recovering her senses very fast! her health is good—she has improved in flesh—she has had but two attacks since I commenced with her. In the first she had but 12 fits, in the second but 6, and her present appearance indicates that the disease has nearly, if not entirely left her. It is now over six weeks since her last attack, and she has not experienced any of those premonitory symptoms which usually preceded her attacks. In her case, I have used the "Third Preparation" freely, and have carried her thro' 16 regular courses, besides six half courses. She also used Composition, Nerve Powders, Nos. 2 & 4 every day; and is now able to attend to the care of her family. My enemies will not report these facts; nor will they report, that all the cases of scarlet fever (16 in number) which came under my care, were cured by Thomsonian remedies, while some of the Regulars have lost one half (if not more) of their pa-

tients, with the same disease, and in the same neighborhood.

Notwithstanding the opposition we meet with, Thomsonianism is making "fearful" and rapid strides in this county, there are now between 40 and 50 holders of family rights, and many others are so well disposed towards the system, that they will use no other remedies.

You are at liberty to make what use you please of the foregoing statements and rest assured that I will do all I can to promote so good a cause.

I am your's respectfully,  
WM. JOHNSTON.

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## THE RECORDER.

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### COLUMBUS,

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1823.

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### THE CHOLERA.

The daily occurrence of this distressful form of disease in the city of Orleans, is mentioned in most of our public journals. Recent accounts from various quarters are calculated to alarm our fears that this destructive plague of human life is retracing its deadly march, returning northward with great rapidity. It is stated on unquestionable authority, that it is exercising its ravages on board the steamboats that run on the Mississippi. It has been, and continues to be particularly fatal among the colored population through various sections of Mississippi and Louisiana, and in various towns along the great western waters. Along these it appears to be gradually extending carrying terror and death as it goes. We have too much reason to fear a very general spread of this direful calamity through the ensuing summer and autumn.—These are the periods in which our most common forms of epidemic disease prevail and with far the greatest fatality. It has already appeared at Louisville and Cincinnati. There have been several recent cases in Maysville Ky. By the St. Clairsville Gazette we learn, that, "it is now ascertained beyond contradiction, that this much dreaded scourge has re-visited Wheeling." The report of the board of health computes the number of cases

from the 16th to the 21st, (of May) at sixteen, and the number of deaths at seven. Several deaths have occurred since. Among the number—Robinson Esq. an eminent attorney at the Wheeling bar. The editor of the Gazette suggests that "the disease originated, and is principally confined to the neighborhood of the market-house, a great deal of vegetable filth having been carelessly suffered to accumulate there." This is a seasonable warning to the citizens of our towns and villages, and should induce them to do as the town authorities of Wheeling have done, "they have entered into active measures to have the streets thoroughly renovated." Personal cleanliness and temperance in all things, avoiding all food or physic that might disturb, derange, or any way impede or impair the functional operations of the digestive organs, or check a free perspiration are among the best precautionary measures that can be adopted. Great changes in accustomed habits of living, that have been prudently indulged, and found to be salutary, we cannot conscientiously recommend. If the digestive powers are kept in proper tone, a regular proportion of vegetable diet is most congenial to nature.— Fresh beef is a very laxative kind of diet. Mutton is the best fresh meat that can be used. It rarely fails to agree with the stomach, & bowels, & has ever been accounted a wholesome article of diet. It not being ascertained that any have ever been affected with cholera who have made a seasonable and faithful use of the Thomsonian cholera syrup as a preventive. We cannot do justice to our feelings, or to community should we neglect, most earnestly to recommend it to all who wish for probable and almost certain security against the fatal pestilence.

We wish our correspondents to be particular to give us the earliest and most accurate information on this interesting subject that is possible.

Columbus, and the adjacent country remains tolerably healthy. A few cases of scarlatina have prevailed, also a few cases of pureperal indisposition, a number of which terminated mortally. This mortality however, we impute to that blind and superstitious adherence to the

mineral practice, that so stupidly obtains, among many reputable classes in society.

Many intelligent citizens will swallow mercury and opium, and other deleterious drugs, and bleed, and purge by the prescriptions of the regular faculty, with as little sound discretion, as the more illiterate and vulgar use amulets and charms for the removal of disease.

These same people are terrified at the thought of applying the steam of warm water, to mention Cayenne is still more alarming—and Lobelia! yes, Lobelia!! the very name frightens as though a demon had appeared.

Thus, through the prevalence of ignorance, superstition and freaks of stale tradition, human life is in perpetual jeopardy. Learned ignorance is venerated in the civilized world, with the same blind, infatuated credulity, that savages in the solitary wilds of the far distant wilderness, pay homage to the arrogant pretensions of the Rain-maker.

Thomsonians stand fast to the botanic standard. Reformation in the present fashionable mode of medical practice is indispensable. Reformation, or a desolating mortality must prevail. "Let the followers of the immortal Thomson and the botanic system," says the editor of the *American Botanist*, "lay aside all scruples, and strive to emulate each other in their exertions to promote the advancement of this truly humane cause."

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The friends of the Thomsonian Botanic system of medical practice and the public in general, are hereby informed that we have appointed Dr Joseph L. Craft of St. Louis our special Agent. We intend at all times to keep a general assortment of botanic medicine in his hands, prepared either by Dr Thomson himself, or by ourselves in either case they will be genuine and of the first quality: Also family Remedies may be had at all times by calling on Dr Craft. From the knowledge we have of Dr Craft, and his substantial reputation as a Thomsonian practitioner, when in the State of Ohio, and that good opinion having been more firmly

established in our minds from sources of the first respectability, in the city, we take a peculiar pleasure in calling the attention of our botanic friends, and of the public in general to this notice, it being a subject of deep interest to the community and to ourselves.

Dr W. T. Mills of Memphis, Tennessee, Drs Browning and Craig, near Huntsville, and Dr Robert Brown, Natchez, Mississippi, having received similar appointments, will be constantly furnished with similar supplies of books and medicine. We consider them entitled to equal confidence, they are invested with equal authority, and applicants can always be accommodated in the most obliging manner. Correspondents will be respectfully attended to.

Columbus, May 1st, 1833.

JARVIS PIKE & Co.

To the friends of the Thomsonian Botanical system of Medical practice and the public at large. We have this day appointed Dr John Sutherland and Mr John Haynie of Tuscumbia our agents. They will keep constantly on hand an assortment of Botanical Medicine prepared either by Dr Thomson himself, or by us. Persons desirous of purchasing Thomson's family rights can obtain them by applying to either of the above named gentlemen.

From personal acquaintance with Dr Sutherland we do cheerfully recommend him to our Botanical friends as a judicious and skilful practitioner, and all those who are desirous of attaining information on the subject of this truly invaluable system of practice, we with confidence refer to Dr Sutherland.

Tuscumbia, Ala. April 30, 1833.

JARVIS PIKE & Co.

*Agents for Samuel Thomson.*

#### NOTICE.

The friends of the Thomsonian Botanical System of Medical practice, and the public in general, are respectfully informed that we have this day appointed Dr W. T. Mills, of Fayette county, Tennessee, one of our special agents for the Western District. In whose hands we intend to keep a constant supply of family Rights, of Dr

Thomson's latest editions; and also, a general assortment of genuine Medicines, all of which shall be prepared in the best manner, as we have made engagements with Dr. Thomson for the Medicine, which will be prepared either by him or ourselves.

From the knowledge that we have of Dr Mills, as an efficient practitioner on this new and invaluable system of practice: and from the good opinion that has been firmly established in our minds, from sources of the first respectability of Dr. Mills' character in general: We take a pleasure in respectfully calling the attention of our Botanic friends and the public in general, to the above publication.

JARVIS PIKE & Co.

*General Agents for Sam'l Thomson.*

April 24, 1833.

#### PHYSICIANS.

It is a very common opinion that men and women cannot be trained to be their own physicians; and it is probable that there are cases of rare or complicated disease, or of dangerous accident, in which the experience gained by extensive practice, may be necessary to suggest a remedy, or to perform an operation. But in nine cases, at least, out of ten, a very moderate acquaintance with the human body, and with its functions, and with the causes that impair, and the precautions that preserve these, would enable us with ease to cure, or—yet better—to prevent, the latent indisposition. This is a fact which has been repeatedly acknowledged, both in private and in public, by the most eminent physicians. And its accuracy is the less to be doubted, inasmuch as it is notoriously the pecuniary interests of physicians to conceal it.

Admitting, then, its truth, how injurious the ignorance in which children are kept of what most concern them to know! And how desirable, that a few, at least, of the days and years that are spent in learning the languages and the customs of two semi-barbarian nations of antiquity, should be devoted to learn that, the knowledge of which will advantage us every day of our lives.

But, however desirable for the mass of mankind, that they should be taught how to retain that first of blessings, health; and that they should further be taught how to regain it, when lost;—it is nevertheless not the interest of the physician that his neighbors should know any thing about their bodies: it is not his interest that they should be taught how to retain their health, nor how to arrest an incipient malady by some simple remedy. Other men's ignorance is his gain. Their folly fills his purse. If they were educated as common sense dictates, he would be a poorer man. If they knew what they ought to know, his knowledge would turn to less account. Common sense, therefore, is, in a pecuniary point of view, the physician's enemy.

Again, how important it is that men and women should know the consequence of excess; and that, knowing these, they should not be tempted to act against their knowledge! How inexpressibly important that there should be no gin-shops, nor any of those houses—the bane of large cities—where popular morality abandons to disease and death its outcast victims!

Yet it is the physician's interest that all this should go on. Intemperance is his patron. A debauch is a harvest for him. Gin-shops and brothels make him a rich man. Each ruined constitution brings him a customer and a fee. He may—doubtless he does, lament all this, for no one knows all its horrors as he does; but he must be more or less than man, if he does not feel that he lives by it.

#### A WISE PROPOSAL.

If we wish to make it the interest of physicians that mankind be temperate, prudent, rational, and healthy, let us pay them, like the medical attendant of the Chinese Emperor, in proportion as we escape disease; but if we desire to make ourselves independent and usefully intelligent, let us go still further. Let us recollect, that to be practical physiologists, is incomparably more important, than to be a latinist or a greekling. If we are too old to learn, let us give our children a knowledge of themselves; let them attend carefully to their own sensations; let us gradually make

them their own physicians. We shall not then see them first ruining their own constitution, and then paying to have them patched up again. We shall not see them tempting disease and death with their eyes shut, and horror struck when at last they discover the natural consequences of their conduct; ignorant, imprudent to-day, and weakly apprehensive to-morrow; committing excesses one hour, and soliciting prescriptions the next. As, when we are our own servants, our wants diminish, so, if we were our own physicians, would our disease decrease.

#### A WILLOW PEACH.

*The Genesee Farmer puts forth the following statement upon what is considered good authority.* Abiel Jagues, Esq. of Worcester county, Massachusetts, is said to have discovered a young peach tree growing under what he calls a water willow, one branch of which, from four to six inches in diameter, grew directly over the top of the peach, as it shot out horizontally. The peach had attained the height of some six or eight inches above the willow branch. For his own amusement he split the willow branch with a chissel, or wedge, and introduced the top of the peach through the fissure; then carefully withdrew the wedge, and it closed upon the peach. In this situation it was suffered to remain till fall, when the peach was carefully sawed off close to the underside of the willow. The stump and root of the peach were transplanted into his garden at a suitable age:—Both bore fruit similar in size, appearance and flavor with this difference,—those from the peach left in the willow had no pits or stones, while the other had.

**NEW VEGETABLE.**—A plant, called the *Oxalis Crenata*, has lately been introduced into England from south Africa, and is likely to be extensively cultivated, as decidedly preferable to the common potatoe.

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER,

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HERSEY, *Senior Editor*

VOL. I.] COLUMBUS, JUNE 15, 1838. [No. 18.

## THE ECLECTIC, No. III.

Being a discussion of AMERICAN rights and privileges, as it regards the PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, and the rights of discovery: By B. WATERHOUSE, M. D. Professor of theory and practice of Physic, and Lecturer on Natural History in the University at Cambridge, Mass.

In Dr. Jacob Bigelow's "AMERICAN MEDICAL BOTANY," Vol. 1. p. 177, there is a colored engraving of the *Lobelia Inflata*, or Indian Tobacco, followed by a pretty singular account of this powerful emetic weed. The article closes thus:

### MEDICAL REFERENCES.

CUTLER, Mem. Amer. Acad. 1. 484.—Schæpf. 123.—Bart. Col.—36. 56.—THACHER, Disp. 267. *Massachusetts Reports*, Vol. VI.

In turning to the Rev. Manasseh Cutler's account of some of the vegetable productions growing in this part of America, written in Jan. 1784, we find LINNÆUS' description of it in four lines. Dr. Cutler denominates it "American pride," or emetic weed, and says that its blossoms are scarlet, and that it is found on the borders of brooks and rivers. In the same page, he says the blossoms are pale blue, and that it grows in dry fields.

As to its sensible qualities, he says, if the leaves be chewed in the mouth, they are first insipid, but soon become pungent, occasioning a copious discharge of saliva. If they are held in the mouth for some time, they produce giddiness and pain in the head, with a trembling agitation of the whole body; at length they bring an extreme nausea and vomiting. The taste resembles that of tartar emetic—a plant possessed of such active

properties, notwithstanding the violent effects from chewing the leaves, may possibly become a valuable medicine."

Hence it appears that the *Lobelia*, or emetic weed, was then unknown (1784) as a medicine, to a learned gentleman, distinguished for his botanical researches. In turning to Dr. Thacher's Dispensatory, we find it described as an annual, and so says Bigelow; but Samuel Thomson says, in his specification, deposited in the Office of State, that it is a biennial.—"When learned Doctors disagree who shall decide?" We answer Experience; whether through Samuel Thomson or Manasseh Cutler, matters not, though neither of them were regularly bred to physic. It does not appear that the compiler of the Dispensatory had any experience in the article. He says—it is probably one of the most powerful vegetable substances with which we are acquainted; and no rational practitioner will have recourse to it, but with the greatest precaution. The melancholy consequences resulting from the use of the *Lobelia Inflata*, as lately administered by the adventurous hands of a noted Empiric, have justly excited considerable interest, and furnished alarming examples of its deleterious properties, [i. e. deadly, destructive, poisonous qualities,] and fatal effects. The doses in which he is said to prescribe it, and frequently with impunity, is a common tea spoonful of the powdered seeds or leaves, and often repeated. If the medicine does not puke or evacuate powerfully, it frequently destroys the patient, and sometimes in five or six hours."—Thomson's own account contradicts



this. He declares that he has given thirty grains of it again and again with perfect safety and great advantage. A physician in Boston, second to none in this city, assures the writer that he has given more than forty grains of it, to his entire satisfaction, and that he was led to the use of it from his confidence in Dr. Thomson, whom he esteemed for his indefatigable researches, and his candor in communicating his experience.

Dr. Thacher says—"The following highly interesting observations have been recently received from the Rev. Dr. M. Cutler;" who gives his own personal experience of the efficacy of Lobelia in asthma—he having been long afflicted with that distressing disorder. Now, as Parson Cutler, though a sensible man, was no physician, his authority is no better than Thomson's, if so good; and my reason for saying so, is this: Dr. Drury of Marblehead who was also an asthmatic, and who was entirely cured by the use of the Lobelia, communicated his knowledge of the remedy to the Rev. Dr. Cutler, who communicated it to the compiler of the new Dispensatory, and he to the author of the American Medical Botany; but the original use of Lobelia in the cure of asthma, may be traced from Dr. Drury up to Samuel Thomson, Dr. Thacher's "noted Empiric," and Dr. Bigelow's "legitimate Homicide."

It therefore appears from consulting the writings of Samuel Thomson, Manasseh Cutler, James Thacher and Jacob Bigelow, that the knowledge of the medical qualities of Lobelia, was first known and used by the first named practitioner, and that he, Thomson, administered it to the wife of Ephraim Coleman, in the year 1808, with complete success in asthma. (See Coleman's certificate, p. 182, of the narrative of the life and medical discoveries of Samuel Thomson.)

It would seem from all that we can

discover that the knowledge of the powerful effects of the Lobelia or emetic weed, had floated on the breath of the people as derived from Thomson, until he grew up a man, when he determined to administer it for the relief of his fellow men. He began on himself, and having obtained signal relief from severe bodily sufferings by the use of it, he adds very happily—"This accidental remedy was found through necessity; and was the first time the mother of invention held forth her hand to me."

The question now is, whether Thomson deceived himself, or whether he aimed to deceive others? Samuel Thomson has as much right to be heard as either of the gentlemen before mentioned, and his character stands as fair, where he is best known.

He says, in p. 206, of his *New Guide to Health*, that the first knowledge he ever had of the Lobelia Inflata was obtained by accident, more than forty years ago, and, says he—"I never had any information whatever concerning it, except what I have gained by my own experience." A great deal has been said of late about this plant, both in favor of it and against its utility in medicine; but all that the faculty have said concerning it, only shows their ignorance of the subject, there being but little truth in what they have stated concerning its medical properties, except wherein they have admitted it to be a certain cure for the asthma. It is a truth which cannot be disputed, that all they have known about this article and the experiments that have been made to ascertain its value, originated in my making use of it in my practice. There is no mention made of this herb by any author, that I have been able to find, previous to my discovering it, excepting what is said by Linnæus, who has given a correct description of it under the name of Lobelia Inflata, but says no-

thing of its medical properties. It is therefore reasonable to conclude, that they were not known until I discovered them, and proved them to be useful. When the faculty first made the discovery that I used the emetic herb in my practice, they declared it to be a deadly poison, and while they were persecuting me by every means in their power, and representing to the world that I killed my patients with it, they were very ready to call it, "Thomson's Medicine;" but since they have found it about to become an article of great value, an attempt seems to be making to rob me of the credit of it; in which some, who have been introduced to it by me, are ready to join, for the purpose of promoting their own interest at my expense."

Samuel Thomson then comments on what Dr. Thacher has said of him and his practice in his Dispensatory, and contradicts a greater part of it, and points out some inconsistencies and contradictions in it. But we do not wish to repeat it. Thomson remarks in p. 208, that—what is quoted in the dispensary from the Rev. Dr. M. Cutler, concerning the Lobelia, is in general correct, particularly as it regards its use in asthma, but that he is mistaken as to its effects on the stomach and bowels, that its operation is entirely different from all other known emetics; and that he has learnt this from administering it in every form and manner for a long series of years. He makes this bold assertion, that all the knowledge that Dr. Cutler had acquired of this herb in the asthma, must have been derived from him. This must depend on dates, names and facts.—Our "noted Empiric" goes on to observe that "it is said by Thacher, that it was employed by the aborigines and by those who deal in Indian remedies, and those who are attempting to rob me of the discovery affect to believe it; but this is founded altogether on conjecture, for they cannot

produce a single instance of its having been employed as a medicine before I made use of it; and he adds that the best evidence of its being an entirely new article is, the ignorance of the faculty of its powers."\*

Samuel Thomson has been privately and publicly accused and prosecuted for using poisonous articles in his practice. The subject will be discussed in our next number.

### AN ELLECTIC.

\* We have given, every where, Thomson's own words, excepting where the grammar and redundant phraseology required a little variation.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

### FOR THE RECORDER.

#### BEWARE OF CALOMEL.

I profess to be in heart a philanthropist, and to possess unfeigned desires for the well being of my fellow men.—Next to the Gospel, I wish the doctrine of medical benevolence to be preached from town to town, through every village, hamlet, borough and city, until every individual catch the tidings, and feel the impression of the good spirit of the botanic system of practice, and pure Thomsonian principles, until a universal dread and abhorrence of poisonous drugs shall seize the world.

My heart, bleeds within me when I reflect upon the abuses and injuries sustained by the use of Calomel. Yesterday I was called to see a young victim who was about to be immolated on the mercurial altar. Let us hear the case! A young man of about twenty-five years of age called to see me; he said, he had heard that I sold No. 6, and he wanted to purchase some: I told him I had No. 6 for sale, but wished to be informed what he purposed to do with it. He proceeded to state that his wife was afflicted with "chills and fevers," as he expressed himself, and said, that he had heard that No. 6 was a good medicine for that kind of complaint. I questioned him farther till I ascertained his wife was laboring under a severe indisposition, which I informed him was an advanced stage

of consumption. He appeared much affected as I pronounced the fact, the colour fled from his face and he became pale, being much alarmed on account of her dangerous situation. He requested me to go with him, that I might see her myself. Accordingly I attended. Good God! what a sight! I was melted with pity! My heart sunk within me. I beheld, and I shall never forget the scene, a young female reclined on a sofa: her beauty could not be concealed by the desolating power of disease which was rapidly consuming her tender frame. Though she was satisfied that few must be her days, yet she carried an indescribable serenity upon her countenance, that was fascinating to gaze upon. I asked many questions respecting her situation. Her answers were intelligent and cheerful, but frequently interrupted by deep drawn sighs, and a dry hacking, spasmodic cough.

Some times by a flash of fever, the native vermillion would mount to her cheek where the roseate glow of health and beauty used to spread their fascinating charms. Suddenly the ghastly deathfulness of her pallid visage would return upon her, the fearful result of the desolating malady that lurked like a secret but determined enemy in her tortured breast. Her cheerfulness, though an index of the native goodness of her disposition, was rather assumed from a sense of propriety, than relished as a matter of enjoyment. By turns deep reflection stole over her busy mind. Her broken speech, melancholy shade of countenance, peculiar melancholy key of voice, and pearly drops that glittered in her eye, all conspired to impress the observer with full conviction that her heart was sad! It is the common fate of those unfortunate beings who have been thrown into such a hapless situation by the abuse of themselves, by the use of calomel, always to be sad!

The cause of this sadness is easy to understand. It is well known to proceed from hepatic affections induced by calomel. Functional and even organic derangement, are not unfrequently the consequence of pouring down that deadly drug. I was soon satisfied that her system had been put under the influence of mercury. I enquired whether

she had been sick previous to her present indisposition---was informed that she had an attack of billious fever!--and now the consumption had seized upon her! But after all, there is not any thing astonishing in all this case, because any body who has had a tour of "billious fever," will either die, or, if he should survive, will endure a miserable existence the remainder of his days, whenever subjected to the mineral practice. What is most astonishing of all, is the blind infatuation and stubbornness, with which so many will hold fast to their old despicable prejudices, in opposition to innumerable facts, and seem to banish every particle of reason from their minds.

Well, courteous reader, since we have entered on this hackneyed theme, let me be a friend to pursue the enquiry to some point that is tangible. Who will solve this simple question, what is a billious fever? [A gold-watch is made of gold of course a billious fever, must be a fever made of bile.] What, a fever made of bile? or, suppose we say, a fever caused by too much bile! What a mystery producing article this bile must be! O malicious bile! to cause fever! But, how? By what means? Where is the bile formed, or from whence is it furnished? Why, surely, from the liver. What is its quality? Is it a soapy substance designed to cleanse the first passages, facilitate digestion, and promote the alvine discharges. Will a liver in a healthful situation under the operation of a healthful action, secrete an useless vitiated quantity of bile? Admitting it possible, the idea involves a contradiction. If an extraordinary quantity of bile of a bad quality, should at any time, be secreted, that bile, so secreted is not the cause of disease, but it is the diseased state of the liver that has induced the difficulty. But a sound tree naturally produces good fruit. A sound organ left to the exercise of its natural functions cannot produce disease.--How whimsical for wise heads to talk about billious fever! It would be equally appropriate to talk about bone fever. Yes, far more rational because there are various forms of disease, occasioned by some parts becoming ossified, particularly cartilages, arteries, &c. These events are known sometimes to cause death! But when did bile kill any man!

How long would a man live without the usual quantity of bile? Bile in itself is harmless, and indispensable for the preservation of the functional operations of life. Yet the learned faculty, full of the mystery of their own wise folly, must have a "bile fever."—It is always dangerous, often fatal, and never without leaving a direful train of relics behind, which are worse than a peaceful death.



We are not now speaking of rare and unusual events, but of events of common occurrence. Thousands are thus sacrificed at the shrine of popular delusion. Who is there now living, however small his experience and observation may have been, that has not noticed something of the prevalence of those calamitous circumstances.—Thousands can give a more melancholy account of the barbarous effects of calomel than any thing contained in the statement I have given.

Last spring there was a man came to my house where I now reside, whose wan countenance and general appearance gave striking intimations of his being a child of misfortune, plunged in depths of abject poverty.



He was no impostor. His case was well and extensively known. One of the most talented of the faculty in this place had attended in his family as related below. The man handed me a certificate having about a hundred signatures to it. The reader will understand this man was reduced to beggary. The cause of his ruin was briefly stated in the petition or brief request, in which he solicited public charity.—We will give his story in substance agreeably to the best of our recollection. Mrs. H. had the misfortune to be taken sick, about 20 years ago. From that period she had been confined to her bed. Mr. H. had spent all his property in paying doctor's bills and other incidental charges. He had to devote his time to a constant attendance on her, himself of course was deprived of the opportunity of earning a livelihood for himself and family by the efforts of personal industry. Now old age had overtaken him, and from this complication of afflictive circumstance he was compelled to beg his support from door to door.

Curiosity led me to enquire into the cause of the malady of this unfortunate woman. It was with much reluctance the husband could be persuaded to give me a full and correct history; for said he "Dr. H. of this place, attended on her. He is one of my best friends—I should be unwilling to have any blame attached to him. He did the best he could for her, to save her if possible." However, he proceeded with his narrative, stating that, "22 years ago she was taken down with 'fever and ague,' the fever turned to be bilious, & after she had been salivated severely!" Take notice, these were his own words. "She was down with her complaint for several months, in the course of which time, she was repeatedly severely salivated. About two months after, she was accounted of as one recovered from the fever, her lower limbs ulcerated and discharged a great quantity of matter, and several pieces of bone exfoliated and came out of her legs—these healed—the sores broke out again—more bone sloughed or scaled off—the doctors were again called in—she was again salivated and kept under the influence of mercury for six months, by the skillful attendance of Dr. H. of this place. We understand another was called in who kept her in the same situation for two months longer; but the ulcers got worse, many more broke out, and now her body is completely covered with scars and sores, & many places have been frequently opened. She is in such misery that life has become an intolerable burthen. To palliate her extreme distress, she makes constant use of Opium! If she does not obtain her regular dose she gets deranged and quite distracted.

Here, my friend, you have the picture before you—an imperfect sketch is all I am able to draw. Great God.—TWENTY-TWO YEARS OF CONTINUAL, UNCEASING PAIN! THE HAPPINESS OF A WHOLE FAMILY DESTROYED AND ALL REDUCED TO BEGGARY! All this has happened to satisfy the foolish imagination of a learned \*\*\*\*\* quack, to support his reputation in keeping up the deceptious idea of the existence of a disease, that never had any real being, only in the disordered imagination of learned ignorance! In the brains of a

science-bewildered quack. Reflect a moment,—what were the means resorted to through this long and perilous season, and how was all this mischief produced? Will you, candid reader, treasure the fact in your recollection, that it was  Calomel,  administered by a learned and regular physician, that has reduced one of the fair daughters of our land, with all her family to poverty and wretchedness! Need I add any comments, or make any additional remarks to impress the sorrowful disgusting tale more deeply on any honest mind? Only let me entreat you to remember, that what has happened in this case is nothing very uncommon in the routine of events attendant on the calomel practice. When a patient has been long subjected to the power of calomel, if he happen to survive the mercurial storm in its first *blow*, he is still liable to all the direful consequences that attended the case just recited, or other effects equally troublesome and distressing. But a few days ago, an amiable lady of the first rank in this metropolis was carried to her grave, who was brought to her long home by the same means, after several tedious years of mercurial sufferings.

About a month ago, I was called to see a man who labors under dyspepsia. He had been confined to his room through all the preceding winter—he has been incapable of attending to his business for several years. All this while he has been attended by two physicians in whom he has placed the most implicit confidence; but finding that they were not affording him any relief, he was determined to abandon their practice; accordingly he called on me for advice; I called, and directly ascertained that the patient had been in the habit of using calomel very liberally, with a view to keep his bowels open and regular, and to cleanse his stomach and the whole intestinal track. He had continued to abuse himself in this absurd manner, until the digestive organs were completely impaired, and the functional powers of the liver deranged, or nearly destroyed. By sympathetic associations the whole animal machine became disordered—in fact body and mind were both deeply affected. He labored under a partial mental

derangement, which has occasioned infinite distress to himself and family.—After advising with me, this calomel victim determined to discharge his mercurializing doctors, and try a new way of curing himself, for this good substantial reason: Because he was getting sensibly and daily worse by the treatment he had been pursuing for six years. But sir, after all, through the persuasion of his friends and the mineral doctors, with all these discouragements staring him full in the face, he was deterred from his good resolution. The doctors have promised him “*cure*,” assuring him, at the same time, that steam would “*kill him*.” [Alas! for the poisonous nature of warm water, especially the steam or vapor rising from it!] From the time he abandoned his resolution and commenced with the mineral faculty again, instead of mending, he has been growing worse and worse. We may see, (should he survive the operation of medicine,) this man doomed to years of tedious suffering, and, eventually, an untimely grave, all occasioned by his beloved calomel, to which he still remains a practical friend and advocate. He is under such a strong mercurial delusion, that he asserts and contends, that this very poison which drags him, by a cruel road, to a lingering death, has thus far saved his life; for now, such is the power of prejudice and habit, he will tell you, “When I had the last attack of ‘BILLIOUS FEVER’  nothing saved me but *Calomel*!”  Oh, the madness, folly and strong delusion!—“I had rather fight a regiment of fiends, than to combat a single prejudice,” observes a learned writer. The propriety of his assertion is felt with peculiar force by a reference to the case of this unfortunate and deluded man, when six years’ of sufferings could not teach him to abandon a single prejudice, and that of a most unreasonable nature. Alas for the influence of prejudice, the power of fashion, and consummate folly of an unthinking world!

D. F. N.

Tennessee, April, 1833.

To D. F. N. and others:

SIR—You and several others have favored us with a number of valuable



communications. We have given them as early an insertion as practicable.—Hope these respectable correspondents will continue to contribute their free-will offerings for the advancement of the good cause. A piece over the signature *Lobelia*, was received at an early period—author unknown, but we were pleased with the communication: unfortunately it was mislaid—we have still been cherishing a hope of finding it, but hitherto our efforts have been in vain. If the author can restore it to us, or some equally well written substitute, it will be carefully and respectfully disposed of. We have a number of valuable communications that are only waiting for their turn. We wish for the earliest and most satisfactory information we can possibly obtain relating to the prevailing epidemic. Let the whole Thomsonian Fraternity stand fast—Read as many medical authors as you please, but never forsake the principles of the Thomsonian System, as we have delivered them unto you. We have for ourselves hunted up the writings of every conjuring reformer of Thomsonianism we can hear of, and after taking a broad view of the whole posse of small fry, and writers big and *LITTLE*, determine to pursue quietly the even tenor of our way, regardless of the reptiles that crawl across our path, and venomous insects; we shall not regard them, only to brush them out of our eyes, as a condign reward of their *LITTLE* insolence. Every man possessing Thomson's Rights, and practising upon his principles, and not an opponent in words nor actions, we hail as a brother. It is the Thomsonian System in toto, for which we contend, as being unique, one and indivisible, with every valuable, unequivocal adjunct that may come to our knowledge. [Ed.]

*For the Recorder.*

A VOICE FROM THE SOUTH.

Messrs. Editors: I hope it will not be considered an intrusion on your editorial course for me to give you a concise detail of the Thomsonian practice in South Carolina, in relation to the success and opposition that attends the progress of his botanic system.

Four years since I purchased a family right, together with a small stock of medicine. As soon as I thought I had a competent knowledge of the system, I did not hesitate to commence practice without delay.

I well remember the first course of Thomsonian medicine I ever gave or saw given, and as well recollect how pleased and satisfied I was with the whole of the new and effectual operations of the new and singular process.

I attended the patient with all the faithfulness I was capable, holding the *NEW GUIDE TO HEALTH* in one hand, administering medicine with the other. Luckily for me, the third course I gave him, he took the Thomsonian *ALARM*! I recollect it was on Sunday, at my own house, and company came in, but I chose rather to conduct the concern between the patient and myself with closed doors until the *alarm* stage should pass over. This continued with but little variation about two hours, and was very severe. By repeating the warming medicine and reading Dr. Thomson's account of the *ALARM* to the patient: thus I roused and animated his hopes, until all terminated very happily. Since that time, I have frequently seen cases in which [this struggle of nature, in putting forth her energies for revival and triumph over disease] called the *Alarm*, has taken place. More than this I have once distinctly felt and realized the feelings peculiar to this distinguishing stage of the process, and must candidly confess that the name to the inexperienced is highly appropriate. It has an alarming appearance, that often surprises both the patient and the attendants. These effects, wherever they occur, appear to be perfectly harmless, and I believe that no change can take place for the worse during its continuance. Dr. Thomson has honestly informed us, and

I have always found it to be true, that the patient, if not afterwards neglected, will certainly mend from that time forward. [As the medicine takes hold upon the system to assisting its efforts to repel its morbid condition, and disease is about to recede and relinquish an almost deadly gripe, no wonder if a general tumult and commotion should succeed through all the animal functions, and all the powers of nature be shaken, and the patient alarmed.] I have been constantly in the practice, up to the present time, and have attended in all the various complaints usually incident to our climate, and, indeed, sir, with a success that has astonished myself and others. I can truly say, that where there is life enough to build upon, [a natural possibility of the continuance of life remaining,] I sincerely believe that Dr. Thomson's medicine, agreeably to his system of practice, will effect a radical cure of disease.

Notwithstanding the success of the Thomsonian system of practice, where ver it has been used according to his directions, and the perfect safety of all remedies in such cases, there remains a strong inveterate prejudice against it in the minds of many, particularly among that class whom Dr. Thomson, in his laconic way, would style the **GRAMMAR DOCTORS** of this State. They appear to have serious doubts of the sufficiency of their diplomas to give them efficient protection, and sustain their declining reputation, and to perpetuate the existence of that veil of ignorance they have so long spread over the faces of the people, lest they should perceive, and know, and understand the truth, and have their attention effectually drawn to the discovery and protection of their own interest, and come to the enjoyment of their own rights and privileges. For myself, I think their fears are well founded, the craft is in imminent danger of an irrecoverable fall, for truth is mighty in its influence, and certainly must and will prevail. They have long fought the regular fight, and kept the scholastic faith; they have continued a liberal prosperous use of the mineral poisons; they have bled and blistered and poured down calomel, to the ruin of many a constitution, and extensive destruction of human life.

After all, they have the assurance to complain and make loud and violent protestations against Thomsonian medicine, defame his system of practice, and abuse him and his friends. They cry, "the Steam-Bath is very dangerous, Lobelia a deadly poison, and Cayenne is sure to kill all who come under its influence; and the other medicines belonging to his scheme, produces equally ruinous and fatal consequences."

Shall we look a moment at the poisons of their own shops, which they continually croud into the stomachs of their unfortunate and deluded patients. Look at their Arsenic, Vitæ, Calomel, and other preparations of Mercury, [Quick-Silver,] Opium, Antimony, Deadly Night-shade, Hemlock, Prussic Acid, Aqua-fortis, &c. &c. &c. These articles are known and acknowledged to be deadly poisons: yet the regular college quacks will tell you that these destructive poisons are all valuable medicine in skillful hands, when administered by a skillful physician.

Shall we look at the skillful Physician? Shall we draw a picture of a character by no means uncommon among them? The skillful Physician knows how to exercise his skill to the best advantage—he knows how to manage his patient, so as to produce a profitable job. The more skill, the more profit, like as the farmer, by skillful management, obtains a larger crop. The longer a patient is confined and kept down on a sick bed, the more visits, and nights' attendance, for the Doctor to charge and swell out his bill of items and demands; consequently his medicines must be very valuable to himself, though they should cost the patient his life. His medicines are valuable in skillful hands. Those must be the most skillful who can palaver and flatter their patients along from year to year, until their constitutions are broken down and utterly destroyed, doomed to perpetual infirmity, sickness and pain, to swallow poison, gradually decline, and never recover, but finally have the transcendent honor, at life's closing scene, to die in skillful hands.

A. V. S

## DISSECTIONS.

That dissections have cast a light on the mechanical structure of the human body, that could not have been otherwise obtained, will never be denied by any man possessed of any tolerable share of information on the subject.

The study of Anatomy, it will be admitted, is a pleasing and useful study. It is necessary that an operative Surgeon should possess a good degree of knowledge in relation to the mechanism and local position of the constituent or component parts of the animal frame of man; that he should understand the functional use of different parts, separate or conjoined, and likewise the injuries they may be liable to sustain by operations improperly, injudiciously and ignorantly performed.

It must not, however, be concealed that, notwithstanding the thousands of dissections annually taking place in France, England, and other nations of Europe, to say nothing of the high-handed pedantic operations of this kind in the United States, they have cast but little light on the remedial department of medical science.

The benefits resulting to society, in this point of view, are comparatively trifling, considering the time, labor, and expense attending these collegial, hospital, and other anatomisers of mankind, in their tedious investigations.

The changes that immediately succeed the dissolution of the body, are known and acknowledged to be great. The differences in the appearances of a dead body, compared with a living one, are so generally known by the more enlightened part of the community, that every discerning person must see, at a single glance, that the examination of a dead man's carcase, dissecting him limb from limb, tearing out his heart, cutting off his head, disemboweling the abdomen, and hanging his bones in wires, and tracing up morbid appearances, can afford him but a dim light to direct his course for the removal of the various forms of disease to which living men and women are frequently subjected to endure.

Suppose, that, in the course of one of these solemn examinations, it should be discovered that the heart, or some large artery, or any important viscus

of a dead man, was partially ossified. Very well, the simple fact is ascertained. What of it? Our curiosity is measurably gratified. We have attached much importance to ripping open the body of a dead person—the ignorant multitude yawn, and make inquiries, while, with scientific oscitation, we receive the rustic homage of those who stupidly account us wise for having made the discovery.

What avail the mighty farce about the dead man? We will say, that we have ascertained to a certainty that a living man may have a complaint that no man could discover beyond dispute, until after the man shall have deceased. An organic malformation, a local organic derangement may exist, while the unfortunate sufferer yet survives. But, can the wisest anatomist that ever handled a knife in a dissecting room, point out and furnish infallible pathological rules, and determine with infallible precision the discriminating symptoms, whereby we shall be able to decide with certainty the genuine peculiar nature and degree of morbid aberrations, in the system of some afflicted patient, laboring under some secret malady, which smaller heads, with fewer brains, could never understand?

Have such benefits resulted to society from all the pomp and parade attending the study of anatomy at our Medical Universities, as to justify the brutal conduct pursued at these unhallowed institutions? We will merely ask if medical students, in our most celebrated Universities, are not notorious in many instances, for robbing graveyards for subjects for dissection? The sacred depositories of the dead have been, by them, disturbed and rifled of their holy trust. Our mothers, wives, and daughters, perhaps an only son, have been doomed to such an untimely resurrection. As a jurymen, in a case of life and death, I never could receive the testimony of a grave-robber, as I would that of another man of equal standing, who had not thus sacrilegiously violated the laws of common humanity.

In some places easily cited, these Esculapians, in their own inflated imagination, would think no more of boiling up a negro, and throwing away his

flesh to save his bones for a closet skeleton, than they would to boil a pig's foot to get the oil. "It is not a small evil," says a late writer, "that the present order of things tends to raise up a band of those villains who have, in England, reached an alarming pitch of audacity and hardihood. Sir Ashley Cooper stated recently, in an examination before a committee of the British House of Commons, that there was no man in England, whatever might be his rank or consequence, whose body he could not obtain, after his death, if he had a mind to dissect it." And recent horrid events, which have happened there, prove that the hands of these wretches are not always unstained with blood.

We will just remark here, that the knowledge of the laws of animal life, of the general condition of a living healthy man, is of far greater consequence than to be deeply versed in the livid discolourations, appearances of congestion, or extravasation of blood or other fluids, with a long etcetra of circumstances in relation to a dead and putrifying carcase. A minute, extensive, scientific knowledge of anatomy, as understood by some of our learned professors, in our celebrated Medical Universities, is no more essential to enable an individual to administer medicine successfully, for the removal of ordinary forms of disease, than it is to be a thorough-bred butcher, to qualify him to be an accomplished cordwainer, and make good shoes out of the hides taken in the butcher's stall. To say that a man cannot administer medicine skillfully and successfully until he become an adept in all the intricacies of anatomy, contradicts universal experience, and is at direct variance with common sense. We might say, with equal propriety, that a man could not be qualified to be a bar-keeper, or correct accountant, until he became an adept in astronomy and an accomplished mathematician. Thomsonians, it is hoped, will be careful not to be befooled out of their senses by that learned *quackery* by which the world is deceived. The accumulation of all useful knowledge, as you have opportunity, is recommended; but to attach such a fallacious consequence to any one branch of edu-

cation, as is often done in relation to anatomy, be far from us. Learn anatomy as you have opportunity. In some respects the knowledge thereof is not only useful, but important; but such cases are of rare occurrence. If you should have privilege for greater scientific attainments than your brother of a low degree, remember Thomsonian remedies are not like a wizzard's wand—They will work alike in every man's hands who has sense enough to understand the principles of the system, whose medicines are genuine, and who has fidelity enough to adhere scrupulously to the prescriptions of our venerable perceptor.

A man may have a tolerable share of anatomical knowledge, the local position, the uses and relations of all the principal parts, without a familiar acquaintance with the verbose technicalities of the medical craft, whose science, glory, and knowledge, in most instances, principally consists in the invention and use of new and unheard-of terms and phrases. These inventions are sometimes ludicrously called knowledge of the dead languages, though an abusive perversion of all languages, of the dead or living. If the language of the dissecting room be the language of the dead—

"Some courteous Ghost the secret  
prayer reveal;

No longer from the world the facts  
conceal;

But faithfully discover, if you can,  
By what strange art we all may understand,

How the learned doctor, in his little  
head,

Retains the unknown language of the  
dead!!!"

AUGUSTUS.

### ACETOSE TINCTURE OF LOBELIA.

This tincture is prepared by using the best of vinegar, instead of spirits, for extracting the virtues of the Lobelia seeds or leaves, and preserving the same for use, in the form of tincture. The green herb may be tinctured in the same way. The Lobelia, thus prepared, may be as freely administered as in any other form.—The dose is the same as a spiritous tincture. It has

been noticed that where the tongue has been covered with a thick brown slough, and the mouth and throat hot and dry, that the spirit in which the tincture was made would render the glands still dryer, aggravate the symptoms we have named, and greatly impede the operation of the medicine. We have often noticed, when administering the tincture to small children, because more handy and convenient, that it was difficult to procure a full operation until we made use of the infusion, which would readily excite a more salutary action, produce moisture in the mouth and throat, put the functional powers of the glands in motion, and a full operation of the medicine was easily obtained. In similar cases, the acetose tincture, in vinegar, is intitled to preference—for, while spirits close and dry the glands of the mouth and throat, good sharp vinegar will open, moisten and soften them, and the medicine with which it is saturated has a fair opportunity for a natural operation. In cases of a sour stomach, it will sometimes correct, and never aggravate, the morbid acidity. Our Thomsonian friends who have made use of the acetose tincture, have found a decided advantage, and have been highly gratified by the experiment. The vinegar should be sharp and pure. The contrivances and substitutes for vinegar, frequently used, as we meet with it on tables, or as often applied to Lettuce, or other sallads, and Cucumbers, might greatly deceive and disappoint our expectations. When good vinegar is obtained, and fully charged with the lobelia, then, in giving the tincture, it should be diluted with water and sweetened, and be combined with No. 2, and every way disposed of as when given in any other form. The patient to be treated as though the common tincture or infusion had been employed.

A Student of Medicine from Boston, while attending lectures in London, observed that the *King's Evil* had been but little known in the United States since the Revolution.

## THE RECORDER.

### COLUMBUS,

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1833.

#### "THE AMERICAN BOTANIST."

A paper bearing this mild and friendly title, published at Rochester, Monroe county, N. Y. by an "association of gentlemen"—edited by F. T. Deffau, and printed by Shepard & Strong, has recently worked its way into our hands. It was issued from the press on the sixth of May, and reached us by a circuitous route, via Boston, after a journey of 20 days. It is a small affair, but the quality of the paper is very good and the typography respectable. Its devotedness to the botanic cause is the very pith and marrow of its profession.—It espouses the cause not only of botany, but of botanic physicians, and we suspect it ultimately leans to the best interest of the botanic college physicians. It implores the aid of the "followers of the immortal Thomson," and the friends of the New York Medical Journal, and all other journals engaged in the cause to coincide. Here's a state convention to be got up. In the grand round of its devoted columns, the editor smacks the slack rope of his querimonious quidities with this eccentric apostrophe,—“Let the followers of the immortal Thomson, and the botanic system, lay aside all scruples, and strive to emulate each other in their exertions to procure the advancement of this truly humane cause.” We think there are too many that have already laid aside all scruples, and have made shipwreck of conscience and sacrificed every moral and ingenuous feeling to subserve their sinister designs. We hope better things of the editor and patrons of the American Botanist, though we thus speak. We would re-



spectfully suggest the propriety, when giving such long quotations from Dr. Robinson's Lectures, as are to be found in the "American Botanist," to accredit the same to the author, or at least not to palm those quotations on their readers as original productions. The meshes of the editorial net are spread out over the whole sheet of this first number that we have seen, and they appear to be devised and shaped for catching fish of every size from the plain honest, unassuming Thomsonian Steam Doctor, with his simple Thomsonian remedies, up, up, up!!! to the New York and Worthington Ohio Botanical Colleges, where, as Dr. Drake informs us, they hold the "*Eel of science by the tail.*" These, however, we agree, should be on amicable terms.

The Friendly Botanic Society of the United States receive the Thomsonian System of Practice as their foundation. They administer Thomsonian medicine on Thomsonian principles. They are not ashamed to avow their medicinal faith. They disapprove of every attempt to set him aside in toto or in part. They are exclusively Thomsonians. They, with one heart and one tongue, rejoice in its triumphant progress. They rejoice in the acquisition of the knowledge of any remedial means that can be added to the general stock of information already laid before them, and in the anticipation of that increasing patronage which promises ere long to fill our happy country. We congratulate our countrymen every where in the brightening prospects that open to our admiring view. The Thomsonian Botanic Convention of the U. States stands adjourned to the second Monday of October of the current year, to be convened at Pittsburgh, Penn. It is hoped the representation will be

full. The friendly Botanical Societies in their respective districts, are cordially invited to be on the alert. Pay a reasonable attention to the subject. We are well assured that the flattering adulation bestowed on pretended reformers, by interested partizans, will never draw you into the devouring vortex of intrigue and dissimulation, may engulf the unwary. We feel no hostility to any of our co-laborers who are real "followers of the immortal Thomson and the botanic system" practice he has prescribed. We cannot how many safe, salutary, and effective adjuncts may be appended to their course, that does not involve any contrary indication, or whimsical violation of the principles that govern his practice. We invite the co-operation of all such, whether editors of botanic periodicals, practitioners of botanic medicine, or only possessors of laudable rights, wheresoever they may reside. We have had many a gorge of reformation professions. Like Jonah's gourd, there has ever been a worm at the root, and we have been timorous of gathering and cooking these voluminous mushrooms, lest we should gather poison, and find "*death in the pot.*" We ask no patronage for Thomson but what he really merits. We make no hypocritical pretensions to fidelity. The world must judge of our sincerity by our conduct. We cordially hope the editor of the "American Botanist" may prove a genuine, undeviating, unadulterated Thomsonian. If we confess our fears of disappointment in this hope, our fears are not voluntary. They are admitted with unfeigned regret. In the selection of matter, we discover some pleasing evidence of literary taste and talent. These we shall ever respect when employed with candor for

the advocacy of truth, and excited into action by honorable and ingenuous motives. We cordially fraternize with the whole botanic family, that come under this description, as being one and indivisible. To all others we say, as we have often said, Thomson we know, and his system we know, "but who are you?"

As an evidence of our pacific disposition, and that the editor of the "American Botanist," may not too hastily conclude that all our remarks are levelled at him or his paper, we cordially proffer a regular exchange. If he proves to be a thorough Thomsonian, we hope he may find patronage; if he be only a reformer in disguise, sailing under a Thomsonian flag, in a reformation vessel, managed by a reformation crew, we are willing they should cast their bread on the wide and fluctuating waters of public opinion, even if they should not find it after many days.

### HYDRASTIS CANADENSIS.

**YELLOW-ROOT**, called, also, **YELLOW PUCCOON**, **Goldon seal**, **Indian paint**, &c. We have in several instances referred to this valuable root and its medicinal qualities, and should not have again introduced it, had we not discovered, that, notwithstanding it grows spontaneously in various parts of the western country, it is not as universally known as we had apprehended. Doctor Thomson, who entertains a high opinion of its medicinal virtues, has not given us any description of the "article." It has, by him & some others, been called **Kurcuma** which is probably a corruption of the word **CURCUMA**, it is the technical name for the **TURMERIC** of the shops, which it greatly resembles, hence we have heard it called wild turmeric. It grows in the western parts of Pennsylvania and Virginia; also in Kentucky, and plentifully in Ohio. It grows in rich woodlands, hill sides, and undulating grounds, where beach and sugar trees are interspersed with a scattered growth of oak timber. Its smooth round stalks,

each having frequently but one large jagged, deeply indented, olive colored leaf at the top, rises from ten to twelve or fourteen inches in height. It bears a bunch of red berries at the heel of the leaf, somewhat resembling in appearance the ginseng berry. It has been remarked that these leaves are rough and somewhat resemble the leaves of the sugar tree, and the red fleshy berry contains many seeds. The root which is the part exclusively used for medicinal purposes, is hard, brittle, rough, and wrinkled, of a beautiful bright yellow colour, having an impression on it somewhat resembling the stamp of a seal—this latter circumstance, it is presumed, gave rise to the name "golden seal." The general Dispensatory briefly notes concerning it, "root bitter, used for colombo, gives out a most beautiful yellow color," Dr. CASE in the American Dispensatory observes, "The root is a very powerful bitter. When dried, it has a strong and virose smell. A spiritous infusion of the root is employed as a tonic bitter in the western parts of Pennsylvania. A cold infusion of the root in water is used as a wash in inflammation of the eyes." "The root" says Dr. Barton, in his collection, "supplies us with a most brilliant yellow color, which will probably be found a most valuable dye. The Cherokee Indians employ a plant in the cure of cancer, supposed to be Hydrastis, or yellow puccoon." Weyer, in his **FAMILY PHYSICIAN**, states, that "the root dried and powdered, and taken in doses of a tea spoonful in a little hot water, is an excellent medicine where the food causes distress in the stomachs of weak patients." These writers have certainly spoken correctly—but probably relied principally on information communicated by their literary correspondents, or by some ephemeral publication, or copying one from the other. But what says Dr. Thomson? With his usual simplicity, he observes, "of the medical virtues of the root, I have had a sufficient experience to recommend it as a very pleasant bitter; and, in cases where the food in the stomach of weak patients causes distress, a tea spoonfull of the powder given in hot water sweetened, will give immediate relief." It is an excellent corrector

See  
P 411

of the bile—may be used for that purpose alone, or with any other article calculated to restore the digestive powers." The importance of this article taken in tea spoonful doses, going warm to bed, for the relief and removal of bowel complaints in children, should be extensively known—we refer the reader for farther information on this important subject to what we have already published in the Recorder, briefly remarking that combined with a small proportion, say one fourth of alspice to improve the taste, with two or three tea spoonfulls of spirits to a large tea spoonful dose of the Kercuma in a cup of hot water, it is not only a corrector of the stomach, a regulator of the bowels, and a vermifuge for children, but it is an admirable remedy for that peculiar sickness attendant on females, during their periods of Utero-gestation, called breeding sickness, and it may be repeated at discretion without any possible injury on any account, for it is perfectly congenial to nature.

We have had extensive experience to satisfy our own minds of its salutary effects. It admirably relieves stomachic oppression, nausea and heart burn or sour belchings called cardialgy. It is worthy of remark that it is not a decoction of the dried root in boiling water that relieves ophthalmia, (or inflamed eyes) but is the fresh dug root, well cleansed and bruised, and infused in cold soft water, that is to be particularly relied upon.

The combination of Kercuma, with Bayberry & composition steeped in hot water, and drank freely, going warm to bed, & applying a warm stone to the feet, is a valuable remedy for adults, as well as children in dysentery, and other bowel affections. The addition of one or two tea spoonfulls of No. 6 at discretion will greatly facilitate the cure. In urgent cases the medicine should be repeated every two hours, or if taken in small portions, more frequently.

**PICQUA-ANNIS:** Arrow-wood, Arrow-bush, Arrow-shrub, Oil-bush.

A small shrub that rises from four to six feet high, straight and thrifty, standing sometimes singly and sometimes two or three from one common root. —

They are about a size suitable for candle rods. It appears to be jointed a little similar to a cane stalk. These joints are from six to eight or ten inches distant from each other, and appear to mark the growth of each year. This shrub may be distinguished from other forrest shrubs by four white lines distinctly drawn perpendicularly parallel between the joints, which are most plainly seen towards the top, but more obscurely towards the bottom. The intervening spaces between these parallel white lines are a brightish green on the upper portion of the stems, but gradually becomes more of a dappled kind of greenish grey as you descend down between the lower joints. The leaves appear in pairs, opposite each other at the joint, and in shape and appearance resemble the leaves of the common dog-wood. They stand transverse from joint to joint, like the leaves of the thorough stem, only, that the stem does not pierce the leaves, but they have a very short foot stalk, with a bud or bulb immediately above, shooting out of the main stalk and resting on the footstalk of the leaf. They blossom early. They are of a bright orange color. The fruit when ripe is almost the size of a red haw, or buckthorn berry, the color of the berry or nut, for they have a shelly surface, resembles that of the blossom. These shells when opened afford a pulpy substance which pressed between the thumb and fore finger, yields oil in abundance. Pierce one of these ripe nuts with a pin, a small portion of the oil will ooze out, apply the blaze of a candle to it, and it will instantly take fire and consume nearly the whole substance, and yield a strong light as it burns. The roots are in several branches, & remarkably white. The bark is thick and brittle, of a pleasant bitter taste. In large doses the decoction is both emetic and cathartic. — It relieves phthisic and croup. In smaller doses, drank cold, or in tincture or substance, it is accounted tonic. The root in poultice resolves swellings, disperses tumors, relieves King's-evil, and disposes ill-conditioned sores to heal. Of this article we have not personal experience, but it comes to us so well recommended by an experienced botanic physician that we think it worthy of at-

vention. It produces a determination to the skin, and in many places is much used in beginning fevers and other acute forms of disease.

### ARDENT SPIRITS TO BE AVOIDED.

David Meredith Reese, M. D. in his "Strictures on Health," gives the following admonition: "Let Physicians scrupulously avoid drinking ardent spirits themselves, or *making drunkards* by administering their medicines in such vehicles. Let our citizens of town and country abandon the hateful practice of *handing out the bottle* to every visitor, whether physician or clergyman; let store-keepers, in this city [N. Y.] no longer *treat* their customers; let societies, of every kind, every where, resolve to abstain altogether from spiritous liquors, and exclude from their fellowship all who use them; let City and State authorities combine, and impose taxes and incumbrances on sellers of ardent spirits which shall amount to *prohibition*; let the ministers of our holy religion "cry aloud and spare not," against this body-and-soul-destroying vice, both by precept and example; and, above all, let the *female* part of our community exclude from the sweets of their society all who indulge these excesses, and *frown* down the votary of intemperance as they now do the rake and the libertine."

N. B. Dr. Reese appears to have been among the earliest advocates of universal temperance. He was one who is justly entitled to rank among the foremost resolutely to lead the way and make a determined stand against that deluge of inebriety that was rolling a desolating tide over all Christendom. The labors of Dr. Reese and his coadjutors have not been without effect. Among the early advocates of temperance we are happy to find that Dr. Thomson, the illustrious founder of Botanic Practice, has always pointed a nervous and determined veto against the drunkard and the dram-drinker. He publicly declines all fellowship with the tippler or his cup. We here take occasion to remark, for the benefit of special agents, that, in their perambulations and negotiations for the sale of Thomsonian rights, they are hereby

again instructed to endeavor never to commit the cause to the management of a lover of strong drink, for he cannot advance, and will often injure and disgrace the institution. We have no confidence in the intemperate. They have lost that dignified sense of moral propriety which give impulse and direction to ingenuous, honorable, right-minded men.

A Correspondent observes—"In the journey I travelled during the preceding season, and of more than a thousand miles on the Ohio River and its tributary waters, I could not avoid observing the special difference in the conversation and conduct of those who possessed the knowledge of the Thomsonian System of Practice, and those who were ignorant of it.

Thomsonians appeared calm and unconcerned for the pestilential storm that was raging round them—true, they sympathized with the afflicted, and felt a painful regret for the ignorance of the unenlightened; but, for themselves, they discovered no particular alarm, evinced no unusual fears. Their confidence in the remedies Providence had provided, bouyed them up in the most trying seasons—all was calm and serene as a summer's sky without a passing cloud: the strangers to his system—the dupes of the mineral practice, with minds enslaved by superstition, were fleeing for their lives, running foot-races with a pestilence borne on the wings of the wind. Their hearts were quailing with fear and the pale spectres of terrified superstition hastened the footsteps of their rapid flight. Many were pouring down their deadly nostrums, their laudanum, and such ruinous cholera preventatives, which, themselves, were as dangerous and destructive as the malady they were thus stupidly endeavoring to avoid. Thomsonians were pursuing their usual avocations in their shops and fields, while the desolating angel spread terror and death around them. I saw no Thomsonians that shunned the chamber of sickness through fear of the disease. Wherever they had an opportunity, they made every possible exertion. Wherever their remedies were seasonably applied and faithfully attended to, no case of failure occurred,

that came to my knowledge. Though the regular faculty, who were loosing almost all their patients, were everywhere endeavoring to cry them down, yet the success attending their practice was so uniform, and the evidence of these facts so unequivocal, that unbelief was staggered, opposition confounded, and, but for the zeal of an interested medical craft, with all their pride and insolence, the whole order would become nearly extinct. Truth is working its way. The day of retribution is fast devolving on a monopolizing, law-protected, systematized scheme of learned quackery. The people must see, will see, do see, that the truth is on the Thomsonian side. The next generation will laugh at the folly of scientific superstition, and wonder that their fathers could have been fools so long."

**MEDICAL ANECDOTE.**—In the New York Med'l. Engr. we find the following anecdote of *Doctor M.* He was an old and respectable practitioner of medicine in a neighboring city. He was a man of sound mind and great experience in his profession, but of limited literary education. About the year 1794, there came to reside in the same city a young Scotch physician, fresh from the medical mint of Edinburgh. This young Doctor, as all young Doctors are apt to do, availed himself of every opportunity "to show his learning." On one occasion he undertook to *catechise* our old friend, on the several "Orders, Genera, Species, and Varieties" of Dr. Cullen's Nosology, to do which a man might as well undertake to study and remember the Chinese language. To this the old Doctor replied with a "*Pshaw!* nonsense! don't you think I know what fever and ague is, the small pox, chicken pox, measles, or the toothache, without the help of your *nonsology?*" Our young Esculapius, as if determined to prove the old Doctor's ignorance, if not his own learning, proposed the following: "Pray, Dr. M. can you tell us the *modus operandi* of an emetic; I mean, how does it produce its effects on the stomach?" To this the old gentleman very laconically replied—"Why, you—fool, it *pukes*, and that's enough for

me." This reply was a *clinch*. We had this anecdote from *both the parties*. They have paid the debt of nature, after living many years on the most cordial terms of friendship and mutual respect.

The Western Mail has brought the news of the death, at St. Louis, of Colonel WILLIAM McREX, a distinguished officer of the late war, and but recently Surveyor General of Public Lands of Missouri and Illinois. He fell a victim to the second recent visitation of the Cholera. It was supposed he brought it upon himself, by too much use of ARTIFICIAL REMEDIES. [By which means thousands have been brought to an untimely grave.] He was buried with military honors.—*Nat. Int.*

N. B. How many, alas! how many have fallen a sacrifice to the mineral poisons, under the deceitful idea of taking medicine! Cholera may have destroyed its thousands, but Cholera medicines—~~Mineral and other~~ poison preventatives, imposed on the blind multitude, have brought their ten thousands to the grave!

### DR. RUSH.

If, during the fatal prevalence of Yellow Fever in Philadelphia, Dr. RUSH, that great, learned, and good man, could honestly have claimed the honor of such uniform success, as has attended Dr. Thomson and his faithful followers when they have been called to contend with pestilence, the *thunder* of his fame would have rung through these United States, rolled in vollied peals across the Atlantic, Asia would long since have received with transports the joyful tidings, and the sable sons of Africa stretched forth their hands in thankfulness to God.



# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

“ Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,”  
“ And practice be combined with common sense.”

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## THE ECLECTIC—No. IV.

Being a discussion of AMERICAN rights and privileges, as it regards the PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, and the rights of discovery: By B. WATERHOUSE, M. D. Professor of theory and practice of Physic, and Lecturer on Natural History in the University at Cambridge, Mass.

Samuel Thomson has been accused by certain physicians of giving poisons as remedies for diseases, and one more violent than the rest, caused him to be indicted in the county of Essex, “for the wilful murder of Ezra Lovett, jr. by giving him a poison called Lobelia, of which he died next day.” The jury, however, promptly acquitted him.

In reply to the horrid accusation of murder, by using poisonous drugs, Thomson quotes from Thacher’s New Dispensatory, where his practice is very seriously denounced, the article muriate of mercury, or corrosive sublimate, which is spoken of as one of “the most violent of poisons;” yet used by every physician internally. He next transcribes the article oxyd of arsenic, which Dr. Thacher says is one of the most sudden and violent poisons we are acquainted with, and yet given inwardly by every practitioner of extensive business! Thacher’s words are—“such are the powers of this Medicine, (namely Ratsbane) that two grains of it are often sufficient to cure an intermittent fever that has continued for weeks.” He even speaks of it as safe to be given to children! He tells his readers that the late Dr. Barton of Philadelphia, combined one grain of arsenic with from four to eight grains of opium made into a mass of pills with conserve of roses and honey, and this to

be divided into sixteen pills of which two or three are to be taken at different periods of the day and night in intermittent fevers! (See p. 301, third edition of the new Dispensatory.)

But Thomson did not leave the matter there, but quoted from the same article, viz: *oxidum arsenici*, of Thacher’s Dispensatory, the following tough paragraph!

“The fumes of arsenic are so deleterious to the lungs that the artist ought to be on his guard, to prevent their being, inhaled by his mouth; for if they be mixed and swallowed with saliva, effects will take place similar to those which follow its introduction into the stomach in a saline state, namely—a sensation of a piercing, gnawing and burning kind, accompanied with an acute pain in the stomach and intestines, which last are violently contorted; convulsive vomiting, insatiable thirst, from the parched and rough state of the tongue and throat, hiccup, palpitation of the heart, and a deadly oppression of the whole breast succeed next; the matters ejected by the mouth, as well as the stools, exhibit a black, foetid and putrid appearance; at length, with the mortification of the bowels, the pain subsides and death terminates the sufferings of the patient. Soon after death, lived spots appear on the surface of the body, the nails become blue and often fall off, and so does the hair, and the whole body becomes very speedily putrid. On dissection, the stomach and bowels are found to be inflamed, gangrenous and corroded, and the blood fluid (that is dissolved.) When the quantity is so very small as not to prove fatal, tre-

mors, paralysis and lingering hec-  
tics succeed."—[Thacher's Dispensa-  
tory, p. 299.]

Here we see the horrid effects of that terrible poison known in this country and in England by the common name of Ratsbane, and which any young man, who has passed through college and attended the required number of medical lectures, and enrolled himself for a short time with a practitioner, may lawfully use, at his first step on the threshold of experience, provided it be according to the formula of the new Dispensatory; while a man of sixty years of age and forty years experience, shall be hunted like a mad dog for using the same quantity of an herb, which the same book prescribes as a safe and valuable medicine!

Let us no longer boast of our enlightened country, or talk of our rights and privileges, when a citizen, who has discovered an invaluable medicine, and used it with such reiterated success as to excite the jealousy, envy and hatred of his rivals, shall be, by their wicked machinations, led in chains to a dungeon, where he endured more complicated misery than any citizen of these United States can or ought to suffer by the laws of the Union, or by the laws of any of its states, even had he been seen, by twenty witnesses, to have committed murder. But good rises out of evil. We think it not at all improbable that the Governor and Council may think it their duty, from this hint, to inquire into the state and condition of some of the jails in the county of Essex, in which case Samuel Thomson's narrative may be a useful guide to them.

Dr. Jacob Bigelow, under the head of medical references, in his article of Lobelia, directs his reader to the sixth vol. of Massachusetts' Reports, which contains, what is called a report of Thomson's trial. We shall comment on this strange report in a

future number, and shall only add to this an extract from the article *Lobelia Inflata*, as given to the public in the "American Medical Botany, being a collection of the native medicinal plants of the United States, containing their botanical history and chemical analysis, and properties and uses in medicine, diet and the arts." Its author, Dr. Bigelow, says, "when swallowed in substance, it [the Lobelia] excites very speedy vomiting, accompanied with distressing and long continued sickness, and even with dangerous symptoms, if the dose be large. A melancholy, instance of death, occasioned by the use of this plant, in the hands of a quack, is detailed in the sixth vol. of the Massachusetts' Reports, in the trial of Samuel Thomson, an empiric practising in Beverly, for the murder of Ezra Lovett. In this trial it appeared, that the patient, being confined by a cold, sent for the pretended physican, who gave him three powders of Lobelia, in the course of half an hour, each of which vomited him violently, and left him in a great perspiration during the night. The next day two more powders were administered, each of which operated by vomiting and occasioned great distress. In like manner, two other powders were given the subsequent day, leaving the patient in a state of great prostration. Several days after this, the physician came again, and finding his patient still worse, administered several more powders, which occasioned great distress, and at length ceased to operate. Finding that the stomach was not sensible to the emetic effect of the Lobelia, the physican repeated the dose, and when the patient complained of great distress at the breast, and said he was dying, the doctor assured him the medicine would soon get down, or operate as a cathartic.—However, on the same evening the patient lost his reason, and became convulsed, so that two men were re-

quired to hold him. To relieve which, the doctor forced down two more of his powders, and the patient, as was to be expected, grew worse, and continued so until he expired."

"The doctor, who had thus terminated the disease and the patient at once, was arrested and put upon trial for murder; but the homicide, proving a legitimate one, from the want of sufficient evidence of malice prepense, he was acquitted and set at liberty." (From p. 180, 181, of American Medical Botany.)

The account of the medicinal qualities and powerful effects of the emetic weed given by Dr. Thacher, appears to be that of a prudent man, who fairly relates what he had heard.—He cautiously omits the name of the practitioner he censures, and only designates him as a "noted Empiric;" not so Dr. Bigelow. He calls him roundly "a quack," by which is commonly understood a cunning, tricking, ignorant fellow, who tampers with people's lives for the sake of gain; a character by no means applicable to the discoverer and introducer of the Lobelia into our Materia Medica. Bigelow calls him by name and endeavors to fix upon him an indelible stigma of infamy, by referring his readers to a garbled account of the trial of Thomson, who though acquitted, was thereby prevented from making his defence, and proving the malice of the prosecution.

Being thus deprived of the opportunity of justifying his conduct, and clearing up his character, by the testimony of more than twenty witnesses, (among whom was to have been the Rev. Dr. Cutler,) Thomson inserted in the narrative of his life, the certificates of several respectable men. The one following, from William Raymond, dated Beverly, December 7th, 1821, speaks directly to the case for which Thomson was indicted for murder, and reads thus:

"In the fall of the year of 1809,

Dr. Thomson was sent for into this town, and I attended with him, and was knowing to all that transpired with Mr. Lovett in his sickness, until he died, which is as follows, viz: Mr. Ezra Lovett came for Dr. Thomson to visit his son Ezra, sick of a fever. The doctor could not attend to it, until he had called several times. He gave him medicine first on Monday evening; and on Wednesday attended him through a full course, [that is, we presume, giving the emetic, injections and steam bath,] as he did also to a cousin of Lovett's who had been given over by all the doctors in a consumption of the liver, and who was completely cured by one operation, and enjoys his health to this day.

"Mr. Ezra Lovett, jr. was so far relieved that the doctor thought he would not need any more medicine, and was called away to see Elder Bowels of Salem; but he gave Lovett strict charge not to go out or expose himself. On the Friday following he was so well, that he ventured out, and even went down the shore to see his friend. The wind was eastward and extremely cold, and he had a severe relapse, and was "much out," (that is delirious,) and continued to grow worse; and on Saturday night I sat up with him. His father wished me to administer some medicine, but I declined it as he was so sick, and advised him to send away to Salem for Dr. Thomson, who was then attending on Elder Bowels. He was accordingly sent for, and arrived on Sunday evening, when on seeing the young man, he expressed great doubts of his recovery. Being urged, he administered his medicine, and gave his strict attention to him for about two hours, and then gave him over, as out of the reach of his medicine; and requested his father to send for some other doctor; but he declined it, saying—"if he could not help him, he did not think any other doctor

could," and he requested Dr. Thomson to stay all night, to which he agreed. Elder Williams was called in to pray with him.

"In the morning Dr. Thomson renewed his request to Mr. Lovett to have another doctor to take charge of his son. He accordingly called in Dr. Howe and Dr. Fisher, who took charge of the patient about sun rise. Dr. Thomson then left him; and those doctors attended on him until about ten o'clock, the next night, when he died.

"Notwithstanding Dr. Thomson 'gave him over' in two hours after seeing him, and the doctors (Fisher and Howe,) administered their medicine to him for twelve hours, yet about one year after Dr. Thomson was taken up for the murder of the said Lovett; and no credit given him for the wonderful cure of his cousin (as before mentioned) who was attended on with him."

(Signed)

WILLIAM RAYMOND."

*Beverly Dec. 7th, 1821.*

And now, candid reader! what thinkest thou of the public denunciation and prosecution for murder of a citizen who has enriched the *Materia Medica* with one of its most valuable articles, and who has introduced a novel practice, which is every day gaining more and more credit?—Compare the foregoing certificate of Wm. Raymond with the suspicious report in the sixth vol. of the *Massachusetts' Reports*, and judge for thyself. Yes! suspicious report, for Mr. Dudley Atkins Tyng was not present at the trial, and that may account for the garbled production,—We never heard or suspected that Mr. Tyng was a garbler of reports; we would, however, advise him never again to admit into his valuable volumes any hearsay reports, least he and the public should again be deceived by the fell spirit of medical persecution. On the trial, one young

woman swore that Dr. Thomson crowded his pukes down Ezra Lovett's throat by main force, while he cried murder! murder! till he died!—This] was doubtless deemed too gross a lie, to be printed in the report.

The next witness on the part of the Commonwealth, was John Lemon, who was directed to state what he knew about the prisoner at the bar.—He stated that he had been out of health two years, being much troubled with a pain in his breast, and was so bad that he was unable to work, and that he could get no help at all from the doctors; that he applied to Thomson who had cured him in one week, and that was all he knew about the prisoner at the bar. Upon this, judge Parsons appeared to be out of all patience, and turning to the Solicitor General said, "I wonder what sort of men you had for a grand jury that could find a bill on such evidence as you have adduced." (See Thomson's narrative, p. 103.)

Then came forward Dr. French of Salisbury, who was the bitterest of Thomson's accusers, and the principal cause of a bill being found against him. It was expected, by the doctors present that his evidence would seal the doom of Thomson; but he acknowledged, on cross examination, that Thomson practised in his neighborhood with good success, and that the herb he used was harmless.—Again judge Parsons expressed his wonder of the men they must have had for a grand jury!

In this medical persecution, it ought to be distinctly remembered, that although Dr. Thomson was promptly acquitted, he was thereby prevented from adducing his witnesses to prove the salutary effects of his new practice. Surprising as it may appear to some, this persecution and prosecution cost poor Thomson upwards of two thousand dollars. He was obliged to mortgage his farm before he could extricate himself.

Among the certificates given to Thomson respecting his practice was one by Stephen Neil, a respectable gentleman of the society of "Friends," containing a number of cases. We can insert here only the first paragraph, viz:

"I am now willing to assert with all the boldness that truth inspires, that I have made use of the medicine aforesaid [Thomson's] for the space of ten years past, in my own family, and in that time have not used any other medicine, or called on any other physician for advice. I have administered the medicine to a great number of my friends and neighbors, which generally produced beneficial effects. I shall state a few of the many cases, and the treatment and advantage received." Then follow the cases.

In our next number Dr. Thomson must speak for himself, and tell his own story his own way—of his original ideas, of his arrest—his incarceration in a dungeon, previous to his trial, and his release from meditated destruction, planned by his rivals, but baffled by truth and justice.

### AN ECLECTIC.

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE RECORDER.

SOUTH CAROLINA, LIBERTY HILL,  
MAY 2, 1833.

*Messrs. Editors of the Thomsonian Recorder:* At the request of the Friendly Botanic Society of Cedar Creek, Lancaster District, South Carolina, I transmit you a lecture delivered before the Society on the second of May, 1833, for publication in the Thomsonian Recorder.

*Gentlemen:* On the last meeting of the Friendly Botanic Society, you had a very short lecture on the circulation of the blood, in which we noted, "that, in a man of common size, there were from twenty-five to thirty pounds of blood, and that this quantity circulated through the system twenty-two times

in twenty-four hours; and that a ruptured artery would spout the blood from five to six feet. A question remains to be solved—What is that powerful agent which produces such wonderful effects?

In viewing the various operations of nature, we discover one great moving principle, viz. *heat*. This appears to be the *primum mobile*, or great living principle in our world; and, without it, there would be an end to animation and vegetation, all things would remain in *statu quo*—in impenetrable solidity, completely motionless forever. I am aware that there was a warm controversy between philosophers, respecting the nature of *heat*: Whether it was a substance or mode of being. But more modern observations on the *phenomena* of heat, have declared it to be "an elastic substance, pervading all bodies, in different proportions, and is the *living agent* in all the great variety of changes which take place on our globe. Without heat, there would be no motion in the air, no thunder storms to purify it from noxious vapor; no evaporation to form a cloud for rain. The ocean without motion, a solid rock; no vegetation for man or beast; in short, neither man nor beast. Well might a great philosopher cry out "that heat was the soul of the world!"

Here we might pause and amuse ourselves profitably by viewing the great abundance of effects produced by heat, in changing bodies into various forms, from the solid state to the elastic fluid and vapor—of its great use in the mechanic arts, and application, in the form of steam, to the various kinds of machinery. But this would carry us too far from the object in view, which is its application to the science of life.

Here, (I am ashamed to say) that too little regard has been paid to the application of heat in the cure of disease, by the Medical Faculty. True, they would say, "that the patient has a warm skin; he must have fever." Indeed, the famous Dr. Cullen, among his *pyrexia*, or fevers, makes preternatural heat a symptom in disease, which must be subdued by the lancet and other depleting remedies. But is this not the very agent which supplies the blood with motion, and is absolutely necessary to keep it



liquid, so that it may freely pass thro' the round of circulation, conveying life and health to every part of the body?

In reflecting on the subject of animal heat, we are struck with surprise to find what great extremes of frigid cold and torrid heat, the human system can endure without dissolution. Man is the inhabitant of every clime, from Lapland to the burning sands of Africa, and preserves, under the various changes of surrounding temperature, nearly the same degree of heat, viz. 98 degrees of the thermometer.

A man may, for some length of time retain heat by being well clothed & fed, having sufficient exercise; but whenever he abates in these, he becomes exhausted, and perishes from the want of heat. Is this not the case on the approach of disease? Surely. The man's appetite fails him; he can take no nourishment, no exercise; hence a loss of heat, a languid circulation, which is soon known by a coolness in the extremities. This is generally the case until a re-action takes place. What is the physician's duty in such a case? To take away more heat from him, by taking blood, &c. This appears absurd to common sense. We would think, to restore to him what he had lost, if possible, would be the true indication of cure.

If I am asked where the vital principle resides, I would answer, in the blood, rather than any where else. It is the fluid through which, and in which heat is carried throughout the system. This heat or life is supported by a variety of stimuli, both external and internal. There is scarcely a rational man who does not know that his body is daily and hourly subjected to the operation of various bodies on his own, and some of which are really necessary to his existence.

Food, in its various quantities, qualities and forms; air, exercise and appropriate medicine, are among the external diffusible supports of life; some of the passions of the mind, such as joy, love, hope, &c., are generally placed among the internal stimulants conducive to life; but we know that an excess of any or all these, will induce disease and death.

The Editor of the Eclectic and Medical Botanist, finds much fault with Dr. Thomson for pretending that heat is a new discovery, when it is as old as Hippocrates; but the gentleman might say that it was as old as Adam. All the use that Dr. Thompson makes of heat, is to apply it to the science of life, and plainly shews that the physiologists of the present day have overlooked its importance in understanding life.

But still the Editor of the Eclectic quarrels with Doct. T., because the Doctor says, "that there is a constant warfare between heat and cold, for victory, and has made each a substance, when any man of common sense knows that cold is a negative term, implying nothing more than an absense or deficiency of heat. It is true, that "cold is a negative term," implying privation, and that there are other negative terms in our language, is also true; that is, the absense of light, and transgression is the want of conformity to a law. But it is not true that Dr. Thomson is so unphilosophical as we are taught to believe by the Editor of the Eclectic; for, let any unprejudiced man carefully read the writings of Thomson, and he will hear him say, "That any diminution of heat from the necessary and healthy quantity, is an approach to disease; and it is a law of nature that there cannot exist two different actions in the system at the same time. This has often been verified in the measles and small pox."

It is a well-known fact that obstructed perspiration, "or taking cold," (as it is commonly called,) produces different effects on different constitutions. In some, a cough and a discharge of mucus from the glands of the throat, in others, pleurisy, influenza, gout, and rheumatism; in children, croup, and all the variety of bowel complaints. The proximate cause of these different disorders, have been properly attributed to obstructed perspiration, or the loss of the healthy quantity of heat. Old authorities might be cited to prove that they considered cold as an agent in the production of disease; and, if Dr. Thomson has used the term "cold," as a substance, he has done no more than conformed to the language of other writers; and for this, he can be no more

criminal than we are, when we say, in common language, the Sun rises or sets, which is not philosophically true.

I know that it is impossible for a man so to guard himself, that he shall never be sick, when he is continually surrounded with agents which are noxious to his existence; but I am fully impressed with the opinion of the justly celebrated Dr. Rush, "That the time would come when it would be as easy for every man to cure himself of disease, as it is now to cure the most simple malady, and that old age would be the only outlet to life." I would now ask every inquiring mind, if there are not strong symptoms of the approach to realizing the opinion of Rush in the 'Thomsonian Theory and Practice.

Dr. Thomson's Theory, "that heat is life, although not new, yet his application of it to the cure of disease, is new, and I have no hesitation in saying that I fear no contradiction. What has been, and now is, the practice among the Faculty. "The man is too hot—the heat must be taken down by the steel-point, cooling powders, &c.;" or "he must be taken (as Dr. Rush was wont to tell his *pupils*) out of the hands of nature, and treated *secundum artem*, according to art; or nature, by overdoing, would destroy herself." Facts daily shew who is the destroyer. The present practice is similar to a blind man, with club in hand, coming into a room where disease is raging, lays about him with all his might, and, if happily he strikes disease, he kills it; but, if he misses disease, he hits nature and kills her. (Vide, Dr. Abercrombie's Dissertation on the uncertainty of Medicine.)

Is this the practice of Dr. Thomson and his disciples? Do they take nature for their guide? Surely. They bear in mind that, "that subtle elastic fluid which pervades every body, according to its capacity, and which is capable to be transferred to other bodies," is life. The Thomsonian practitioner guards it with peculiar care, and by appropriate remedies, kindles it to a vivid flame; it is the Thomsonian's friend, and, without it, he knows he labors in vain against disease and death. He will assist the good man of the house, who is beset with thieves and assassins, who have entered to de-

spoil him of his most valuable goods, and will not relax his exertions until he sees his friend free from danger, regardless of the cry, "that you will steam him to death, or poison him with your Lobelia."

Permit me again to introduce you to the Editor of the Eclectic. He pulls down, with all his rhetoric, the Thomsonian System, in order to build his father-in-law's (H. Howard's) on its ruins. Let us take a glance at this much-reformed system of Dr. Howard's. Here it is, from the pen of his son-in-law, Harvy D. Little, who, we may suppose, could have no inducement to give us an erroneous statement. He says "that life is a forced state—that there is no inherent power in the organs to keep up those actions on which life depends; but that the power of life is drawn from the air, and from our food, and is concentrated with all its force into the blood; that the various organs are so constituted as to be susceptible of impressions from this power, which is applied to them through the agency of the purple blood; that food, and drink, and air, are the substances from which the powers of life are drawn, and are the stimulants which, in the healthy state, keep the living machine in motion, and drive us on through life." He (*viz.* Howard) assumes—not that cold is death, of even, in every instance, the pre-disposing cause of disease: but that death arises from the exhaustion or cessation of the vital power, induced by various causes, and that disease itself "is a failure or diminution of that power which sustains and preserves life."

"It is on these propositions," says the Editor, "that Howard has founded a system of practice, in rational correspondence with the indications which they represent. Instead of using heating medicine or stimulants to raise the increased heat, (as Thomson expresses it,) he applies them to remove the debility of *tissues*, by stimulating and exciting them to renewed, and, consequently, healthy action, and so with the whole of his remedial agents."

I would not have adverted to "this reformed system of practice of Dr. Howard's," did not I expect that it will, in time, be offered for your money on easy

terms, to your consideration: neither do I, by these remarks, forestall public opinion; but only to give you an outline of this "Splendid Theory," which is to be the *summum totale* or the sum total of medical science. And what is it, when you have seriously examined it? "That life is a forced state." An opinion as old as Dr. Cullen, Brown, Rush, and others; and who has denied it? Not the Thomsonians; they know it by experience in every day's exhibition of food and medicine to their patients, in order to support life, and supply the waste of heat.

Gentlemen: If the extract of Doctor Howard's System of Medicine is correct, as given by his son-in-law, Harvy D. Little, (and the presumption is that it is correct,) you have not a solitary principle to regulate your practice, and never will, were you to read this "reformed system" a thousand times, twice told. For we have nothing more than "life is a forced state" and stimulants are necessary to its existence. It is true, he tells you, that Dr. Howard uses these stimuli for a quite different purpose from Thomson, viz. "to remove the debility of the tissues," (a new term not long since introduced by medical writers, to convey some meaning, I know not what, in its application to medicine)—That they may be excited to renewed and healthy action.

The Editor of the *Eclectic* invites his courteous reader to observe Thomson's *ne plus ultra* of medical science, in his course of medicine. "It is, in short, says he, nothing but the administration of some diaphoretic medicine, to promote perspiration, and the external application of vapor or steam, to open the pores of the skin, &c. together with the consecutive and immediate effusion of cold water to the body of the patient, cleansing the stomach by emetics, &c. This is, says the writer, the boasted discovery of Thomson, and which the aborigines of our country have used from time immemorial."—(Vide *Eclectic* No. 2. Vol. 1.)

Has Dr. Thomson done no more for the cure of disease, than this sapient editor would make his readers believe? No one who has read Dr. Thomson's books will give him credit for the assertion. He there not only gives us the

medicine to be used, but tells us plainly how to apply them to the sick, and also lets us know what will be the result of their operation, and all sufficiently intelligible to the common understanding. What more can we desire? Must we again launch into "medical uncertainty," without any other chart to guide us to health, than Dr. Howard's, "That life is a forced state, and that it wants stimulants to support it."

But it is time to close this lecture. Permit me to advise you to hold fast by the science of life, as exhibited to you in Dr. Thomson's New Guide to Health, until you are certain that you have obtained a better. I am well satisfied that it will answer every purpose that medicine is wished to effect, if faithfully administered. Do not be a partial Thomsonian, but try to possess the spirit of its author, when he asked his pupil, "what his medicine was good for, if it could not cure disease."

ROBT. D. MONTGOMERY.

*For the Recorder.*

Messrs. Editors:—Is it necessary for medical practice, that the practitioner be governed by some regular systematic principles? To this enquiry, every reasonable man will answer in the affirmative. Man is so constituted that whenever he sees certain effects produced by certain causes, he naturally seeks for some philosophic reason to enable him to account in some rational way for those phenomena. This property, quality, or attribute inherent in the nature of man, eminently distinguishes him from the rest of the animal creation. Whatever of intrinsic cunning or wisdom may be found in brutes, does not appear to be the result of that observation, reflection, and comparison of facts that belong to human beings.—The brutal tribes appear to glide along through life, unconscious of many things that are familiar to rational beings. Carelessly, regardless of consequences, they rush unsuspectingly

into danger; in most instances have but little if any fears, or hopeful anticipation of the future. It is not so with rational beings. The Great Parent of the Universe has assigned to man the high prerogative, of tracing by philosophic investigation, his road for future travel. Hence, man necessarily feels in his own mind a responsibility for his own conduct. He cannot realize self approbation in indulging thoughts, words or actions, which he is conscious are erroneous or morally wrong. He cannot divest himself of the apprehension of the connection of his present conduct with his subsequent condition.

Ignorance is not a certain security against suffering—Wilful ignorance will not palliate, but will greatly aggravate the consequences of an erroneous course. Prejudice cannot furnish a satisfactory excuse for avoidable error. Nothing can falsify truth. It is an eternal unit. Nothing can annihilate the great laws of nature, or derange the natural order of cause and effect.

In the great fabric of the Universe nothing appears to have been done in vain. Though we know but in part, and see but in part. Men may pervert reason, abuse words, run mad about their peculiar notions—system may be built upon system, falsehood may engross men's minds, and become the popular faith of the world; some misguided zealots may hold fast to a strong delusion, even unto death—but truth remains immutable as its author. It exists in the nature and fitness of things—amid all the mutations of earth and time it remains invariably the same. The efforts of created beings cannot affect any alteration.

System makers should be on their guard. Truth is always consistent with the whole scheme of created existence. System-makers should be vigilant, lest they admit and teach something inconsistent with, or con-

trary to, some known and established truth. Something inconsistent with, and contrary to some known and established law of nature. System-makers when weighed in the faithful balance of accurate, philosophical and logical reason, commonly turn out to be bad reasoners. Their plausible schemes often involve some glaring absurdity, or insurmountable contradiction.

One common source of error lies here; a man of an aspiring ambitious mind, with laborious study will conjure out some new theory—it looks very plausible. He is carried away in the imaginary greatness and importance of his invention or discovery. Thus inflated with self-approbation, he is now absorbed and swallowed up in his schemes and devices. His interest and reputation are at stake—He wishes to annihilate every thing that interrupts his progress, that excites to more successful enquiry, or exposes the fallacy of his own fluctuating fanciful projects.

This disingenuous selfishness, that ambition to excel in fame, where men lag in merit, has led many to base dishonorable extremes in the road of folly, in all ages of the world. Happy for mankind, unerring providence moves with a steady wheel, and ever has provided, and continues still to provide an effective remedy for the eccentric wanderings of the errorist, and to reclaim the obvious footsteps of mistaken mortals, closer to the paths of truth. To this end, the world has had a Moses, a Zoroaster, a Socrates, a Plato, and a Seneca—for this the christian Messiah appeared, with the army of martyrs in his train.

In after times, it was discovered that the christian religion was perverted and corrupted by being blended and confounded with the political condition of the world—then a Washington, a La Fayette and a Bolivar were born.

In every age, some heaven-appointed messenger has appeared, who has stood for the defence and propagation of the truth, and have had to face the storm of an opposing, and persecuting world. Their business has been to call men from political, moral and physical error, to the love and practice of truth—in the emphatic language of inspiration, we say “from darkness to light.” Error in sentiment, leads to error in practice, and the general result is misery, wretchedness, and all sorts of complicated sufferings.

Among these illustrious personages, Dr. Samuel Thomson holds a distinguished rank. In the annals of medical reformation he stands on a conspicuous elevation, and in point of real merit, leads the van. More real happiness has been diffused to mankind by his discoveries, than has been realized from a long train of benefactors in many preceeding generations. He too has had, and still has his opposers. The greater benefits any benefactor has conferred on man, the more formidable has been the opposition that has hedged their way, the more malicious and implacable have been their persecutors. The persecutors of Thomson have even thirsted for blood!

It would be a vain attempt to enumerate all the benefits and extraordinary blessings devolving on the world through the instrumentality of Dr Thomson’s system of medical practice. They are certainly innumerable.

Where is that careless unobserving character, that is not alarmed, and painfully concerned for his fellow beings at this momentous crisis? How many new and aggravated forms of disease are annually springing up in the world? What dreadful destruction is taking place among mankind? Hereditary forms of disease also predominate. They are entailed from sire to son a frightful patrimony.—

Parental transgressions are visited upon the children to the 3d & 4th generation. What an alarming increase of consumptions, dyspepsy, cancerous sores, and scrofulous affections prevail? The arrows of disease fly in darkness, and the pestilence destroys multitudes at noon day! What an abridgment of human life, compared with the former generations of men?

As the influence of these varied forms of disease extend, human happiness is curtailed, sufferings and dangers are multiplied. Diseased bodies affect the minds of men. As the forms of disease are multiplied, and the effects extended among men, in an exact ratio may we expect mental imperfection, and imbecilities to arise. What a curse is entailed on man!—

Shall we stand idle and unconcerned spectators at the melancholly course of human affairs? Shall we see the world of mankind degenerating to the condition of the irrational animals that surround them, and not rise in the plenitude of our privileges and shake off the ignominious yoke that hangs upon the world?—What are the causes of all these calamities? becomes a momentous question—the next in importance is what should be attempted to be done?—We reply, that falsehood being the cause of so many calamities heaped upon the human race, the work to be done, is to expose error and falsehood, and disseminate the truth with firm and fearless zeal. Truth is always simple; it is never fraught with mystery and darkness; it can stand the test of exposition and experience.—Falsehood can never abide this kind of scrutiny. Placed in the light, its native deformity stands exposed.—This may serve as a rule or touchstone by which to try the works of reformers. Let us put impostors to the test, by exposing all mystery makers, and all who show a disposition to hide their pretended knowledge from the minds of those who are as



justly entitled to information as themselves. The neat rule of decision, is, to "judge of the tree by its fruit."

These two rules will lead us to the discovery of the mischief makers teach us how, successfully to oppose them, and put us on the road to a rational enjoyment of the blessings of life, and how to diffuse a munificent stream of benevolence on every hand. I feel disqualified fully to expose the defects and ruinous consequences of the prevailing or fashionable medical practice. It may however be safely referred to the reflecting part of community, who are already measurably awake to the subject. There is not a section of our country so remote or small, but what is more or less infested by the murderous practice of the regular medical faculty.

It is unnecessary to enlarge on that point. Abler pens than mine have developed many of the secret machinations of the craft, and dragged many of the hidden things of darkness to the light of day. They have so far performed an important duty. We hope they will again and again appear in the field of battle, until universal victory shall be proclaimed. I shall confine myself in the remainder of this sheet to remark concisely and freely on the Thomsonian system, and his competitors. I shall not set up as an Improver or a Reformer of Dr. Thomson's medical principles or his practice. I could easily shew the folly, intrigue and dishonesty of those who endeavor to impose upon the world by pompous words, which are in fact a tissue of plagiarism, who are justly entitled to the contempt of community.

We no longer need merely to theorize, and reason from precarious data, to justify Dr. Thomson's system. We have facts, stubborn facts; we have experience, and an abundance of testimony, which cannot be disputed, which his opponents circulate through society to give currency

to their own schemes. When I think to analyze Thomson's system, to shew its vast superiority over the host of competitors that have lifted up their heels against him, I scarcely know where to commence. It is so arranged, so systematized, so conglobulated into a magnanimous whole, that it is not a task suited to moderate talents to dissect, and disjoint it into detached and separate peices. We cannot separate and examine understandingly any one part of the system without taking the whole connected in a chain as being one and indivisible. We cannot tell which to admire the most, the simplicity and efficacy of his remedies, or the originality and demonstration inherent in the principles that regulate his practices in the administration of those remedies. — Separate any thing from his system, you impair its excellency and lose something of its efficacy. By a separation of parts, a measure of imperfections attaches to the whole. Keep all the parts together in the spirit and in the letter, and you have one of the most simple, complete, and efficient systems of medical practice ever devised by human understanding.

It is simple, because plain and easy for common capacities to understand.

It is complete, because nothing essential is wanting, and nothing very important can be added without superfluity.

It is useful in an extensive sense of the word.

It is useful because of its simplicity; its simplicity makes it useful to all. It is useful because it is complete, and it is the more complete because it is simple.

D. F. N.

*Error corrected.* In the 397th page of the Recorder, right hand column, 5th line from the top in describing the Golden Seal, instead of a "*bunch of red berries*," read a "*red berry*."

N. B. This berry, when fully ripe, becomes a dark brown.

*For the Recorder.*

A VOICE FROM THE SOUTH.

*Messrs. Editors:*

I shall not pause a moment to ask pardon of the law-protected faculty of South Carolina, for the freedom of my remarks, as already made, in a previous voice from the South, heard on the pages of the Thomsonian Recorder. No personal reflection is intended. It is not one or two individuals that we are contending against—we contend on general principles—we contend against the use of dangerous medicine, or rather against the use of deadly poisons, perversely called medicine, and frequently and extensively used as such.

The present mode of medical practice, as secured by law, in the hands of a few individuals, called regular doctors, who are a privileged monopolizing class of our citizens, is undoubtedly a heavy curse to the free people of this State. This is a serious fact that will not be doubted by any impartial honest-minded man, who has obtained the knowledge of its disastrous effects on the human constitution, and the destruction of human life that has been occasioned by it.

Can a man take fire in his bosom and not be burned, or swallow poison for medicine and not be injured?—Let us examine into the common practice of the South Carolina faculty in the general treatment of disease. The first visit the patient receives he will probably be bled, say one pint—a heavy dose of calomel is given—some Dover's powders, or Laudanum, or both are given, or perhaps if it be accounted a fever case, some nitre, or sweet spirits of nitre, purging salts, and preparations of potash are left—the doctor revisits his patient next day, and agreeably to his most reasonable expectations finds him worse than he left him. How could it have been otherwise? He had taken away blood from his system,

which is so much of the life thereof while remaining in him. He had poisoned the remainder with calomel, opium, &c. By this time he finds the case has changed type, and several blisters are next applied, perhaps four are thought to be necessary. Thus the patient is secured for six or eight weeks attendance, secundum artem; Stranguary and great debility ensue: The patient is kept on low diet, or rather scarcely allowed any thing to eat, a dose of calomel is daily administered, opium at night; quinine, salts, carbonat of potash, Dover's powders, spirits of nitre, tincture of digitalis are given freely, through the day, salivation commences, runs high, mercurial pulse is spoken of, strength is prostrated, the mind deranged, the eyes wild, countenance frightful, patient is wealthy, the doctor receives a cordial injunction not to leave the house. He demonstrates his great skill—he has converted his poisons into valuable drugs—yes, valuable to himself. Thus gentlemen, you see, how the poisons of a doctor's shop are valuable medicines, in such skillful hands. The doctor reaps a "golden harvest," at the expense of the constitution and frequently the life of his patient.

No wonder a law of special protection is wanted. Protection did I say? yes, protection. The faculty of South Carolina require protection. The honorable Legislature of this State granted it in 1816. They have made it penal by fine and imprisonment, if any Thomsonian, or any but a regularly licensed physician should receive a "fee or reward" for curing the most deadly attack of disease, even such as the protected have pronounced incurable. Gentlemen, I am happy to assure you that this protection business does not appear fully to answer the purpose for which it was intended. Truth has gone abroad into the world—she is making daily converts to a reformation in

the practice of medicine, and the honest patriotic people of this State appear to look with scorn on the protection system. In open defiance of the medical law of special protection, they pay and receive fees for their honest and successful services, and for their medicine.

A. V. S.

SCOTTVILLE, Ky. June 3d, 1833.  
Messrs. J. Pike & Co.

*Gentlemen:* Feeling a deep interest in the success of the Thomsonian cause, and believing your Recorder a powerful instrument in hastening a reform which is much needed, I have influenced some persons to desire to have the perusal of your publication. Please forward the Recorder to the following gentlemen  
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Though I have been formerly much delighted with the laboured pages of the regular faculty, I am now most decidedly a Thomsonian. Indeed I should feel much delicacy in expressing the fullness of my confidence in Thomsonian remedies, where myself was not known and their particular power had not been fairly tested. Their powerful efficacy may well astonish an intelligent world!—I anticipate the day when the knowledge of their efficacy shall become general. The earth will be blessed with an increase of health and peace, and the glorious hope of Dr. Rush be fully realized. Having had a few weeks leisure, I rode to \* \* \* \* to devote some time to the great and good cause, where the Thomsonian practice was not known. I found the opposition so great, and so far from being honorable, that I spent several months in said counties; though much to my disadvantage in a pecuniary point of view; I am much gratified at my success. I have sealed despair on the ambitious and overbearing faculty. In

the course of the time spent in that section of the country, I attended about sixty patients: nine or ten of that number were very doubtful cases: Two were taken from the injurious hands of the regular faculty—they were tottering on the very verge of the grave. I have certainly been successful, for I have not lost a patient. I have added 40 respectable intelligent members to our humane, benevolent, revolutionizing, friendly, Thomsonian, Botanic Society.—I have been applied to for the distance of 32 miles, for a lady who had been poisoned four or five weeks with minerals: her life was despair-ed of: I attended 13 days, having very little hope of success, until three or four of the last days, when the prospects have began to brighten. If I should ultimately succeed well and the unfortunate patient recover, it will be worth five hundred dollars to the novel system of medical practice.

I have an extensive acquaintance in six of the Western States, and, was it not for the press of an extensive business, I could spread Thomsonianism almost with the velocity of electricity. Notwithstanding my energetic zeal, I fear I shall have to relinquish those active operations in the Thomsonian cause. Fail not to send the Recorder as requested, for it should be spread by all means.—If a few copies were sent gratis to every county in the American Union, where the system is not yet known, it would have some good effect, if read by intelligent persons.—Go on, gentlemen, brook the torrent of opposition without dismay, for I am conscious the day is not far distant, when he who advocates the use of any of the mineral poisons as medicine, will be subjected to general derision, and spurned from the presence of intelligent society. Yours respectfully.

*To the writer of the preceeding letter.*

Sir: We cordially congratulate you on your thorough conversion to Thomsonianism, and the good success that has attended your practice. It is such unwavering, unequivocal disciples we wish to see in the field, with the sword of the botanical spirit in their hands, which is the Thomsonian system of medicine reduced to practice. The cause prevails gloriously—The yawnings of reformation projects are dying away. Opponents rally in vain. Time has brought the enemy to the charge.—Their expiring groans occasionally reach our ears. The isolated fact that Thomsonian medicine transcends all others known for the removal of disease, is enough to put to flight ten thousand competitors, attempting to purloin his birthright, and to drive back the people to the old round of antiquated folly and superstition. With reformers, every form of disease must have a distinct name, and must have a distinct and specific mode of treatment. Thomsonian medicine removes disease of every form from the sick, as naturally as bread and meat remove hunger, or water quenches the thirst of a labouring healthy man. We forward you the Recorder, as requested, in which we have taken the liberty to record your own communication. We are highly gratified at the interest you feel in the advancement of the cause, and hope that Providence may crown your laudable efforts with abundant success.

ED.

## THE RECORDER.

COLUMBUS,

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1833.

*Notice to the U. S. Friendly Thomsonian, Botanic Society.*

The United States' Thomsonian Botanic Convention stands adjourned to the second Monday in October, of the current year. It has appointed to convene at Pittsburg, Penn. All the branch societies of the United States are invited to send delegates. The season of the year will be more favorable than the late inclement period of its former session. This timely notice is given agreeably to the instructions of the last assemblage of that venerable body. The former delegates are requested to be punctual in their attendance. Those friendly Botanic Societies not represented last year, will be so far engaged in the good cause as not to fail of furnishing a delegation, that they may be all represented in said convention. Where any special difficulties or insurmountable obstacles arise to prevent attendance by your representatives, please to forward us some written communication post paid, directed to the subscriber, or to the General Agents of Dr. Thomson at Columbus, Ohio. These communications should all be mailed as early as the 1st day of September next. You will please to transmit accurate details of the successfulness of the Thomsonian practice, and the most extraordinary cases and remarkable incidents attending the same. If our remedies have failed in any particular cases where seasonably, faithfully and perseveringly employed, we wish to be informed, also, under what circumstances of derangement of the system, organic or functional, its salutary opera-

tion may have been any way impeded. Have you known of any cases of failure where the patient, his friends and yourself thought him curable, in which you have given the means a fair trial, and have not succeeded. A detail of all improvements and discoveries if any exist, in relation to any branch of the healing art, is requested; also what professions or pretensions have been made within the respective bounds of any of the branch Societies, to any particular improvements and discoveries as above stated. The great design of perpetuating the annual session of the Botanic Convention of the United States, is to establish the system on a firm and immutable basis as the principles which govern the Thomsonian practice; to elevate it beyond all suspicions; beyond the base influence of competitors; convince the world by its salutary efficacy of its practical utility, to introduce the knowledge of it with all his more recent discoveries, and its astonishing progress, if practicable, into every intelligent family; and to cause the whole community to understand the truth concerning it.

Dr. Thomson wishes the whole civilised world to know that there is no more absolute and indispensable necessity of what is generally accounted *Medical learning and skill* to enable them to restore their bodies to health, when sick, than there is for similar qualifications to preserve their strength and supply them with proper food for their nourishment when well.

To accomplish those great designs, to promote harmony through this great institution, to preserve uniformity in our medical prescriptions, to make reciprocal communications permanently useful, the proceedings of the convention at their next session will be made

public. All concerned may rest assured that no care nor pains will be spared to communicate all the information of any importance that can be furnished. Dr. Thomson has advised us of his positive intention of giving personal attendance. Every brother of the great fraternity who can exhibit satisfactory evidence of being lawfully possessed of a Thomsonian right, who has not forfeited his claim by abusing the system, or by becoming an Agent for any of the opponents of the Thomsonian cause will be entitled to a seat in this national council. The Thomsonian infirmaries in different sections are respectfully invited to forward particular details of their history, viz: their rise, progress, cases, cures and auxiliary appendages of surgical skill. Though we claim no immediate connection with the botanic colleges having objects and views different from local efforts, to raise up a distinct order of medical practitioners—yet we should be glad to hear from them, as the friends of botanic medicine, and all communications will be respectfully noticed. All worthy communications from Botanic Physicians, individually made, will be thankfully received, and their respective claim politely acknowledged.

Many who can not be considered as being properly entitled to a seat in our immediate councils, nevertheless, we esteem them as entitled to our unfeigned friendship, as the opponents of a destructive mineral practice, and the avowed friends of botanic medicine. We have the honor to be, gentlemen, with the most cordial consideration your friends and very humble servants in the cause of humanity.

THOMAS HERSEY,

Sec. of Genr. Cor. U. S. B. Soc.  
Approved by JARVIS PIKE & Co. Gen.  
Agents for Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON.



**The great Pestilence.**—The most awful pestilence which is known to have visited the human family, was that which broke out in the year A. D. 1345. This disease, like the cholera, made its first appearance in India and other parts of Asia. Medical science was then at a very low state. It ravaged the East with a virulence vastly greater than the cholera. By a report furnished the Pope, whose throne was then seated at Avignon, it is recorded that nearly twenty four millions of souls perished in the East during one year. It soon crossed over into Greece and Italy, with unmitigated mortality. In Venice one hundred thousand are computed to have died, and sixty thousand in Florence. It marched onwards with terrific fury into France, Germany, &c. In the most favored districts two out of every three persons died; in many places, from fourteen to sixteen out of twenty. In many districts not a single male adult survived. In Germany millions perished; at Lubec in that empire, fifteen hundred persons died in four hours! In August, 1345, it reached England, and entered London on the 1st of November.—Many writers have described it on that island, as well as other parts of Europe. It is recorded that in the Church yard of Yarmouth, a small town, 7052 bodies were interred in one year. In Norwich, 53,374 persons perished in six months. A great field was bought near London, to bury the dead in. After the pestilence was gone a monument was raised over the grave—"where dwelt the multitude?" with an inscription in Latin, which, when translated, was nearly as follows:

A. D. 1349.

Consecrated to the memory of fifty thousand souls,  
Whose mortal remains were interred  
on this spot,  
during the Great Pestilence.  
May God have mercy on their souls!  
Amen!

Exactly one year after its appearance, it ceased in England; but its effects were dreadfully felt, not only there, but through all Europe. The oxen, the sheep, and other cattle wandered over the country, without a care-taker, and perished in great numbers. The harvest was lost in the fields, because there was none to reap it; and famine filled up the measure of this awful visitation.—The poor Jews partook of the last dregs of the unequalled calamity.—The ignorant populace of that savage period, believed that they had poisoned the waters, and fell upon them with unremitting cruelty, sacreing and burning many the sands of that devoted race.

The regular Faculty are every where flying before the Cholera. The Street Doctor, on the contrary, every where that opportunity presents, faces the pestilence, and successfully administers for the relief of the afflicted sufferer.

"Medicines, says Dr. HORTON, contain no incoherent principles of action in themselves. They do not act on the dead body, said Hippocrates, and their action on the living body depends on the State in which they find it; whether torpid or irritable, strong or weak, and it is the same with all parts of regimen, food, drink, air, exercise or any other."

A "New View." To Samuel Thomson and Horton Howard, are the world indebted for an arrangement and combination of the scattered and almost forgotten principles of physiology, on which a safe and certain practice of medicine can alone be erected.—*Ed. Eclectic.*

When the doctors fly from the Cholera, it is stripped of half its terrors—while they remain in any town or city to put down calomel and opium, (stupid ninnies,) the mortality will travel on with deadly step!

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER,

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense"

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## THE ECLECTIC—No. V.

Being a discussion of AMERICAN rights and privileges, as it regards the PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, and the rights of discovery: By B. WATERHOUSE, M. D. Professor of theory and practice of Physic, and Lecturer on Natural History in the University at Cambridge, Mass.

## THE ECLECTIC No. V.

In the days of Grecian greatness, their physicians were divided into sects, or schools. The most ancient were called Empirics, who admitted only one method of acquiring a genuine skill in the medical art, which was by experience, which they defined a knowledge acquired by the evidence of the senses: that this was either fortuitous, or by design, as when one finds a salutary effect, he exhibits it in a parallel case. This they termed Epilogismus, or as the Latins express it, transitus ad simile. This sect boasted of Hippocrates as their head, who relied principally on nature and experience. But this set of Empirics were opposed by another called Dogmatists, who maintained the necessity of knowing the latent as well as the evident cause of disease, and that a physician ought to understand all the natural actions and functions of the human body, which necessarily presupposes a knowledge of the internal parts, as taught by anatomy. By latent causes, the dogmatic physicians meant the doctrine of the four elements, fire, air, earth and water, the assigned principles of our bodies, whose change, state or temperature gave origin to a good or bad state of health; or else from vitiation in the qualities of the humors, producing disorder, or else from some changes in the atmosphere as Hippocrates believed.

The Dogmatic sects did not deny the necessity of observation, but they contended those observations could not be judiciously and accurately made without the assistance of reason. One

taught that a consummate physician was made by deep thinking and close reasoning on established principles, while the more modest Empiric asserted, that all researches after the latent cause of disease were vain, seeing nature herself was incomprehensible, and her secret operations past finding out. They observed, that if reasoning were the only requisite to make a skillful physician, their philosophers and logicians would make the best physicians.

The Empirics were by no means deriders of reasoning, but they asserted that life was too short to enter into the endless disputes of the schools, where generally the brightest genius and the most voluble tongues carried the victory away from the laborious experiments. The famous Emperor Montezuma, among the Mexicans, was of this way of thinking; for he endeavored to collect into one vast garden, the various herbs of his Empire, and directed the physicians to study and report their medicinal virtues, and this was done by tasting and eating them; for, happily, they knew nothing of the chemical analysis of a plant, in order to discover its medicinal qualities! But for this, we should have been ignorant of that valuable catalogue of simples, wherewith South America has enriched medicine.

Cotemporary with the Empirics and the Dogmatists, was another sect, called the Methodists. These were a sort of logical physicians, and not unlike our Nosologists, who have divided and subdivided disorders, and encumbered the art with a thousand useless names, and who, like our fashionable Botanists, while obscuring the science by a multitude of hard names, and loading the memory to no useful purpose, have persuaded themselves and others, that they were advancing the knowledge of the nature of medicinal herbs.

At length a fourth sect arose, who called themselves Eclectics, because

they selected and chose out from the writings, and practice of all around them, whatever they judged most excellent, giving to experience its due, and to reasoning the honor and credit which belongs to it. From this rapid glance of the characters of some of the ancient physicians, the pupil may understand the full meaning of the words of the illustrious CULLEN, who speaking of the great Boerhaave, says—"He was a man of general erudition; and, applying to medicine, he had carefully studied the auxiliary branches of Anatomy, Chemistry and Botany, so that he excelled in each. In forming a system of Physic, he seems to have studied diligently all the several writings of both ancient and modern physicians; and, without prejudice in favor of any former systems, he endeavored to be a candid and genuine Eclectic." (See preface to Cullen's First Lines, page XVII.)

We have said enough to enable the general reader to make a just distinction between an Empiric and a 'Quack.' Let us see how far the subject of these numbers deserves to be enrolled among the former, or stigmatized with the latter.

Samuel Thomson tells us in the interesting narrative of his life, that his mind was bent from childhood on learning the medicinal properties of vegetables; that he was in the constant habit of tasting every plant he met; and having been blessed with a very retentive memory of impressions, he always recollected the taste of those he found, and remembered the use of such articles as were communicated to him by others. I was often told, says he, that I should poison myself; but I never could believe that the beasts of the field, to whom the bountiful Creator has given instinctive discernment of wholesome food from poison, were wiser than man, provided he lived agreeably to nature, and eschewed the luxuries of fashionable life. He tasted & well remembered the effects of the emetic herb (Lobelia) when but four or five years old; that he used to give some of the leaves or pods to his playmates, and laugh at the effects on them; but that he never contemplated seriously its extraordinary qualities before he was about twenty

years of age, when he happened to give it, through sport, to a man who was mowing with him. The man chewed a sprig of it, and recommenced his labor, but soon stopped and said, "you have poisoned me." He sweat, staggered, and imagined that he was dying. He trembled and had no more color or life than a corpse, and threw himself on the ground; but we helped him to a neighboring spring, and gave him water to drink, when he vomited profusely. After getting him to the house and on the bed, he, in a few hours, became composed, with no other alteration in his feelings than what arose from a most voracious appetite, which he freely indulged. It was this circumstance which gave me, says our Empiric, my first strong impressions of the value of the pale blue flowered Lobelia as a medicine; for while I saw its powerful effects, I learnt that it might be taken into the stomach with safety, and the idea of its singular virtues never left me from that day to this. I was now in the habit of gathering and preserving, at the proper season, all kinds of medicinal herbs, and varying my experience with them; some I found would have their operations reversed by boiling, as is the case with Lobelia, while some gave out their virtue to ardent spirits, others to a watery infusion, and so on; but I had not then any idea of ever devoting myself to practice medicine as a physician; for I had allowed a doctor to live in a house on my farm, with certain privileges, and to pay his rent in doctoring my family, which was an increasing one; but I found it a losing game, for whenever any of the family took cold, or were overfatigued, or eat too much the doctor was called in, and never failed to give them physic, and sometimes to bleed them. It seems as a judgment upon me, that some one of my large family were sick most of the time the doctor lived on my farm, which was about seven years; for after he moved off I had very little sickness. I attended them myself, and when some were seriously sick, with such remarkable success, that my assistance was called for by the neighbors, and the circle of applications widening, I concluded, at length to devote myself entirely to the study and practice of physic.

Born in a new and wilderness country, my advantages of education were very small, and my chances of knowing the world still less; blessed with a natural gift for examining the things of nature, my mind was left free and without any bias from books, to follow that inclination by inquiring into the meaning of the great variety of objects around me, and with the relationship and dependence of one thing upon another.—I had read the Bible intently all my life, but could not find therein all I wanted. Possessing a body like other men, I was led to inquire into its component parts and peculiar nature. I learnt that its natural elements were, like those of all other animals, earth, water, air and fire. I perceived that heat, or what the doctor's now call "Caloric," was life; and cold, that is, the absence of heat, was death; and that this vital heat was the primary agent in supporting existence and carrying on the growth of the body, and that the stomach was the fire place, and the food or medicine, the wood or fuel which kept the engine in play & carried us on through life, until the materials of it were, by its natural action or attrition, worn out, when it returns to earth, and enters again into the common stock of materials, to be made over again in a manner that is past finding out.

It appears that Thomson's sagacity led him on to a general idea of the structure and economy of the human frame; of digestion, of the use of the bile—of the circulation—and to a confused notion of the glands, and of their secretions, and excretions, and a tolerable idea of the nervous system: in a word, to as correct a knowledge of the animal economy as commonly fell to the share of the country practitioners of that day. We find, however, that our Empiric had, like other physicians, his theories; for example, he conceived that there were in the stomach three combined powers to effectuate digestion; the first, heat, the second an acid, and the third bile; that when the heat is deficient, the bile is defective in quantity or quality, leaving the acid predominating in the prime organ of digestion and vigor, giving rise to what is vulgarly called heart-burn. Accordingly his method of radically curing

this complaint is to raise the heat of the stomach by his lobelia, cayenne, and other heating vegetables, which shall enable the biliary system to brew stronger bile, which by overcoming the predominating acid, shall carry on the process of digestion with ease and pleasure. While he uses those permanent stimulants, he abjures the use of ardent spirits; the first he compares to a steady coal fire, and the latter to the transient and dangerous blaze made by shavings. It is not probable that Samuel Thomson ever read the writings of Galen, yet it is remarkable that his doctrine of heat and of cold, varies but little from that renowned physician; and it is as remarkable that his belief in, what Hippocrates, the Father of Physic, called Nature, the curer of disease, appears in all Thomson's theories.—He differs, however, from the Grecian luminary of medicine, who waited for the crisis, or turn of a fever, whereas he tries, at once to keep nature in her salutary process, and by means that have startled the uninitiated. The first exhibitions of all great and extraordinary improvements has always operated an alarm on the ignorant, as in the first cannon, first sky-rocket and first steam-boat. It is repetition that lessens fear, and adds to our stock of knowledge.

Thomson, like all other reformers, derides the general practice of the "order" of "regular" physicians, and carries the matter, in our opinion, too far. He denounces the use of arsenic, of mercury, of antimony, of opium and of nitre; and considers blistering as useless, and the free use of the lancet destructive. He has a general aversion to the use of minerals, and to chemical preparations, and defends the idea that every region produces vegetable remedies for its epidemics. He seems to forget that opium is a vegetable production. He imagines that the new Pharmacœpia, got up by the physicians of this country, with a new set of names, is but a scheme to continue the people in ignorance of the history of the medicine which the Faculty make them swallow. These wrong notions and prejudices are naturally accounted for in a man of Thomson's peculiar habits, who has gone on

through our villages, for thirty years past, with his medicine in one hand, and his staff of defence in the other, often dexterously wielded against the interests and mortified pride of the "privileged order of practitioners."

#### AN ECLECTIC.

P. S. When noticing the report of Thomson's trial, in Tyng's collection, we advised against hearsay reports, "lest the public should again be deceived by the fell spirit of medical persecution," we had an idea that, that report was drawn up by a Physician.—We had not then the least suspicion of the very high source whence it flowed, and shall act accordingly.

#### THE ART OF PRESERVING LIFE.

Among the few simple rules which ought to be observed in order to enjoy good health and preserve the constitution unimpaired to a good old age, the following deserves particular notice.

Inuring ourselves to the habits of supporting and resisting the various impressions of external agency, we are capable of undergoing the various changes of air, weather and climate, which we are called upon to experience in the ordinary vicissitudes and avocations of life, and unless we subject ourselves to extreme and unnecessary exposure they will have a tendency to confirm rather than impair health. The man who has been unaccustomed to the changes of temperature; or having previously been accustomed to exposure, and is seized with a whim of taking too much care of his health, will suffer much from the influence of small causes, and take cold at almost every change of the barometer.

Exercise of body and mind is essential to good health and indispensably requisite to long life. Moderate exercise, both to body and mind, keep in tone the functions of life, and is greatly conducive to the object in

question. The indolent and stupid seldom live to old age. Most of our old men are from the industrious and active portion of community.—Equanimity, or that state of mind which is not disquieted by its own exertions in mental research or other objects is conducive to long life.—Fatigue of mind is equally as ruinous to the constitution as fatigue of body; and where the mind is continually engaged in abstruse inquiry, the powers of life will soon be exhausted and premature old age, if not premature death, will ensue. Evenness of temper is also conducive to long life.—The passions have wonderful and powerful influence upon the body. Grief destroys digestion, and relaxes the system. Fear weakens and disposes to disease—Anger inflames and sometimes produces instant death. But he whom neither joy convulses, nor melancholy corrodes, whose dream of life is not chequered by too sudden vicissitudes, may expect, with some probability, a long life of health and enjoyment.

Temperance in eating and drinking is an object of primary importance.—There is scarcely an instance of any person, who has attained uncommon longevity, who has not been temperate in his manner of living. Every one should study his constitution and regulate his manner of living accordingly. Nature and experience will afford a safe guide in adapting the mode of living to the constitution, and preventing its being impaired by excess. A sound and healthy state of digestion greatly favors the attainment of advanced age, and there is not a surer symptom of approaching death in old persons, than complaints of indigestion. In order to preserve a sound state of digestion, temperance must be observed.

The most simple food is the most salubrious, and every one ought to attend to the effect which the various



aliments produce upon himself and select accordingly. Food should be taken moderately, well masticated and with a serene mind, it should also be taken at proper intervals—early in the morning, at noon, and a proper time previous to the time which nature points out for rest. We commit a great mistake both in the quantity and quality of our food, and particularly in the former. He who eats slowly and moderately of several dishes, will injure his stomach less than one who eats immoderately of one or two favorite dishes.

He also who eats slowly, will feel himself satisfied when he has received a due quantity; but he who swallows his food hastily and without proper mastication, will not think he has eaten enough until he occasions a sense of weight and pressure. The Golden rule of eating is *to eat of that dish first which is most palatable*.—This rule is highly important, and he who rigidly observes it, is in little danger of over-loading his stomach.

*N. E. Review.*

### VEGETABLE MEDICINE.

In order to communicate such information on this subject as shall be useful in curing or preventing disease, it will be necessary to give a general view of the principles by which we must be governed, to ensure success. According to Dr. Thomson's plan, all the vegetable substances that are useful in curing disease, may be classed under three heads, in which is contained the whole Materia Medica; that is, what he calls *hot, rough and bitter*—the more fashionable terms used by the doctors are *stimulent, astringent and tonic*. The first raises the inward or vital heat, and promotes a natural and free circulation; the second removes the canker, which is the cause of all soreness; the third restores the digestive powers, so that the stomach will digest the food taken into

it, without which there can be no solid nourishment to support the system.

There are innumerable articles to be found in the vegetable kingdom, that are applicable to some one of the whole of these objects. All the skill necessary to cure disease, is to know the cause and those articles best calculated to remove it. The primary cause of all disease, is cold overpowering the inward, or vital heat, which is nature, and thereby causes obstructions. Those obstructions produce pain and will continue until removed by either natural or artificial means. In the first stage this may be done by almost any thing of a stimulating nature, sufficiently powerful to cause perspiration; but when this is neglected, and nature is not sufficient to restore itself, there will be in all cases more or less canker, which will be followed by a derangement of the digestive powers, so that the food taken into the stomach will afford little or no nourishment.—This is what we call a settled disease, and cannot be removed without resort to all three of our grand principles—to raise the inward heat, remove the canker and restore the digestion.

To give any thing like a satisfactory description of all those vegetables that have been found useful in curing disease, would be impossible. A correct knowledge of them can only be obtained by experience. We shall therefore confine ourselves to such only as have been found by this test, to be the best calculated to effect the desired end agreeably to the plan we have laid down; leaving it to those who take an interest in the cause, to gain knowledge by their own experience, which can be easily and safely done, by keeping in view the principles we have given as a foundation; and observe the rules we shall give for their direction. Any knowledge thus gained of the

medical properties of the vegetables of our country, will be attended to if communicated, and laid before the public; by which means a fund of useful information may be preserved.

Dr. Thomson has given us a rule, by which he says he has governed himself through all his practice, to ascertain the medicinal powers of vegetables, and has always found it correct: that is, to chew some of the article, and if it causes the saliva to flow freely, and leaves the mouth clean and moist, it is good; but if it dries the juices, and leaves the mouth rough and dry, it is bad. By the help of this test he has been enabled at all times, in whatever place he happened to be, to find some article that would have the desired effect.— This is a very useful and important discovery, for it puts it in the power of any one who is desirous of gaining knowledge by experience to make himself useful in curing disease, by the use of simples which will be always safe.

By the sense of tasting we are less liable to be deceived than by either of the other senses; and the glands of the mouth are extremely susceptible of ascertaining the quality of any substance communicated to them.— All such articles as are of a stimulating nature are easily known by the warmth they produce; and tonics may be known by their bitter taste; every thing that is bitter is said to be of a warm nature, and therefore cannot be poison, for all poisons are of a cold nature. Such vegetables as are poisons, have a cold, sweetish taste, and leave on the glands of the mouth a foul and disagreeable effect.

All vegetables that are astringent, possess more or less a stimulating power, and are useful in proportion to the heat they generate, by exciting the glands. The bayberry root bark possesses this quality in a high

degree, and is one of the best things to remove canker that has been discovered. Many things that are used for canker are too drying, and will often do harm, without the aid of some powerful stimulant to excite the glands and make the juices flow freely. The celebrated Peruvian bark is no doubt a powerful astringent, but is very apt to produce bad effects in consequence of its drying nature, which by binding up the juices causes great distress; and is not so good as many vegetables that grow in our own climate.

We have thus far pursued our labours on this important subject, by giving what we conceive to be a sort of key to the inquiry, to enable the reader to form a correct idea of the best manner of obtaining knowledge by experience, in looking into the vegetable kingdom for all those needful remedies for our complaints, which the God of nature has so abundantly provided for our comfort and health, and which we ought not to be in too much haste to pass by. This subject will be further treated upon hereafter.—*Med. Adv.*

*An Important Discovery—S. C. Rafinesque*, of this city, "Professor of many Sciences, Architect, Draftsman, &c." has announced to the public, the discovery, by himself, of a new mode of erecting buildings of all kinds, so as to render them entirely *incombustible*. He denominates this discovery by the term *Incombustible Architecture*, and alleges the following as the advantages of the new style, all which he offers to warrant, viz:

1. Buildings will be fire proof.
2. They cannot be set on fire a purpose.
3. They cannot catch fire from neighbors.
4. They will last longer.
5. They can be warmed in winter at one-third the usual cost.
6. They will be insured at a mere trifle.

7. They will be warmer in winter.
8. They will be cooler in summer.
9. They will require no expense of fire engines and firemen.
10. They will save the lives of 100,000 persons doomed to be burnt alive.
11. They will save 100 millions of dollars of property doomed to be burnt.
12. They will look neater and more convenient inside.

These unquestionably are important considerations, and the Professor speaks most certainly of his ability to perform all he promises.

The *modus operandi*, of this new style he wisely and discreetly keeps to himself, but with munificent liberality he offers to divulge the secret to any architect for the sum of \$1000; or if any demur at this price, he declares he will himself undertake the erection of any edifice, and receive for payment the saving in fuel and insurance and in the expense of the building—it being part of the Professor's plan to build houses of this kind at a much cheaper rate than in the ordinary way. Certainly we bespeak much attention to the Professor's declarations.—*Eve. Post.*

#### ORIGINAL ANECDOTE.

The writer of this scrap was last spring [1833] travelling on board a Steam boat on the Cumberland river, on his way to Nashville, Tenn. A very respectable physician of this latter place was on board and a calomel brother from Mississippi. The latter it appears had on his way up, been called to attend a sick child of some fellow-passenger—it seems, however, with all his learned skill to sustain him, the luckless child was getting worse and worse very rapidly. One morning the Mississippi doctor was called in an urgent hurry to see the child. While he was absent, the Nashville doctor observed that “The d——d fool was killing the child fast!!!” “*Why, Dr.!*” said a by-stander. “*Why sir,*” said the doctor, “he is physicking the poor

creature to death, I saw him last night,” continued Dr. Mc. “and if he don't alter his treatment, the child must die.” The writer with all the complaisance and pleasantness he could well assume, made the impressive enquiry, “Dr. if every murderer were hung how many physicians would there be now alive?” “Not one,” vociferated the doctor, in a firm decisive tone, accompanied with a solemn imprecation: “Not one who has practiced one year, I don't care how few patients he may have had!” Now reader, mark that—not one who has practiced one year but what in his estimation has been accessory to the death of some one or more of the human family.—Where is the Thomsonian that has been faithful to his trust that can even remotely reproach himself in this manner. Remember this was a deliberate assertion falling from the lips of a highly reputable physician in the metropolis of Tennessee. Thank God, there is no death in Thomsonian remedies. If Thomsonian patients die, it is by the neglect and not by the use of Thomsonian medicine. Such is the nature of our remedies that instead of quenching the dying spark of life, however feeble, they will often prevail to recal the vital part, that has commenced its exit, and rekindle the living fire that was about to be forever extinguished!

D. F. N.

WHAT A BROTHERHOOD.—Dr. Caldwell, of the Transylvanian University, says, there are but three animals who can abide Tobacco, viz. the African rock Goat, the most loathsome animal on earth—the foul Tobacco worm—and the rational creature—MAN.

#### THE CRITERION.

“There is one criterion which Physicians seem to have overlooked; that when their practice aggravates disease or hastens death, they may be sure it is wrong. And yet, this they seem never to have considered with due attention; ascribing to the disease what they ought to attribute to the remedy.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Recorder.

*A voice from the South.*

Messrs Editors:—I have frequently given it as my opinion that the established medical practice in South Carolina is not calculated, nor scarcely can I believe it to be designed to cure, but rather to prolong disease. Like some complicated machinery, one dose of medicine makes way for another, and that for a third, and so on, *ad infinitum*, as long as life endures.

Let us examine the facts in relation to the genuine character of our prevailing practical custom: suppose for instance, we take a strong, healthy, vigorous, active man, in the prime of life, we put him to bed, call him a sick man, or rather, we treat him as such, take a pint or a quart of blood, give him a dose of emetic Tarter, then a heavy dose of calomel, say 20 or 30 grains, perhaps twice that quantity! then apply a blister ten inches square over the stomach or breast, and another of the same size between his shoulders, another four inches square to each wrist and ankle—give a heavy dose of Dover's powders, and rub mercurial ointment on his skin, until he becomes as black as an African, feed him on merely one pint of weak gruel in twenty four hours—continue the calomel and bleeding regularly for four days with broken doses of 4 or 5 grains of calomel, and an equal quantity of Dover's powders every three or four hours, and once or twice a day a dose of digitalis, with a little laudanum at night, to compose the patient, and force sleep on his tortured system. Say reader, what do you seriously think would be that man's situation? This does not exceed what the regular faculty would account a prompt and efficient practice in desperate cases of inflammatory bilious fever—We can easily cite cases equally absurd. Well, serve the *well-man* in this way, what would be the consequence? If not dead, he certainly would be greatly debilitated, his situation must inevitably be distressful, and in all probability, in a vast proportion of cases, should we treat them in the same way, we should find them past all possibility of recovery. We fre-


quently hear of a similar course of treatment among the sick, and death is constantly treading upon the heels of such practice. The Doctor excuses himself by saying, the disease changed type; yes, and no wonder, a natural disease has been changed to an artificial and incurable malady!

Such management we should presume sufficient to change any thing in the system that is changeable, from bad to worse. But the veil is commonly cast over the family and friends: A few Latin phrases or technical terms, an oblique glance at some anatomical subject, not always relative to the case, conceals the root of the mischief—The physician is accounted a very learned man, marches off with all the honors of the mercurial warfare against reason and common sense. A heavy bill charges is preferred against the estate or friends of the deceased, which, (in this state of equal rights and privileges") is to have preference to all other claims. When the deceased is in his grave, the doctor's bill must first be settled.

No wonder if you begin to inquire why such a state of things be allowed to exist in this enlightened age and country. The answer is, habit has made such a course popular. A few wealthy, ambitious and popular families take the lead in regulating our habits and customs. This monopolising party, this aristocracy in disguise, have sought and found protection under certain laws. The learned faculty are specially provided for—A deep veil of ignorance is spread like a wide curtain round society at large; the friends of humanity are liable to fines and imprisonments, when practising and receiving compensation without a regular licence—thus the regular faculty are striving to take from the people the key of knowledge, and to hold the keys of death in their own hands. This they have done for a long season without the special aid of the civil law—And now they aspire to snatch the key of life from the hands of the people.

A great proportion of the world are fond of flattery, and swallow deception as they do the poisons of the shops: these things, together with false statements and misrepresentations, have had

a very natural tendency to hold back or check the reformation in medical practice. It is in this way, that the grossest impositions are supported that were ever practiced on the human race, even in the darkest ages of the world.

Perhaps, Messrs Editors, it may be thought by some of your readers, that I am too severe in my animadversions. If so, I refer them to Dr. Rush, that eminent Professor in the University of Philadelphia. "Dissections," says the learned doctor, "daily convince us of our ignorance of the seats of disease, and causes us to blush at our prescriptions." What mischief have we done under the belief of false facts and false theories? We have assisted in multiplying diseases; we have done more, WE HAVE INCREASED THEIR MORTALITY: 

Such language as this, coming from one of the most distinguished heads of the department of medical science, is sufficient to condemn the whole round of mineral practice; and ought to consign it to oblivion. But, as I have before observed, these deadly poisons are valuable remedies in skillful hands, but valuable only to the law protected faculty, at the expense of the health and lives of community. [It is the lucrative sales made of those poisons that constitute their real valuableness and not their utility in removing disease.]

Should the voice from the South be allowed to speak in the Recorder, perhaps I may have something more to offer on this subject after a while; for the subject is interesting and apparently inexhaustible. I feel happy to assure you that your Recorder is received and read with much pleasure, and it is my opinion that it will be greatly beneficial in extending and promoting the cause of truth.

Friend L. had the assurance to forward me a few numbers of his Ec. but \*\*\*\*\* Imposition and fraud I dispise.

I think old friend H. has \*\*\*\*\* but I forbear—the way in which his works were brought forth, is sufficient to condemn them. As for any new and unheard of information he can give, and all his pretended improvements, what are they? I think I am somewhat of a competent judge in the case at issue. "I would not give one cent for any im-

provement he can make on Dr. Thomson's discoveries." A. V. S.

### TO MR. A. V. S.

SIR—We have received a communication from you, or rather, we might have said, we have heard with pleasure a voice from the south; it has now gone forth to the four winds. We hope this voice will be often sounded. The author will consider us as inclined to listen with attention. He will excuse the liberty we have taken in abridging; omitting some parts, and modifying others in the concluding sentences in relation to Messrs. ——— & ———. The statements we esteem strictly and rigidly correct—the method of expressing his sentiments on their course is strong and energetic. We believe it all and more too, *inextenso*; but we have determined not to drag them into notice by too often affecting to believe them sufficiently consequential to entitle them to so popular a castigation.—Give reformers no trouble, they will gravitate to the dark centre of their multifarious cogitations, by the weighty nothingness of their lawless speculation. We could wish that all genuine Thomsonians had the same opportunity of examining the productions of reformers that we have had. We do contend that, compared with Thomson, reformation light is but thick darkness, and without intruding on the high prerogatives of Dr Thomson, no reformer will ever be able to give to the world a system of practice that will ever be equally successful.—The very leading articles of his system, and his precise mode of mixing, preparing and administering, are all indispensable.

Our hopes nor fears for the success of the Thomsonian cause are not in the



least excited by any thing the opponents have said, or can say—The Thomsonian system stands a unique and stupendous monument of a magnanimous and prolific mind—The unrivalled successfulness of his practice, laughs at the envy, and defies the combined efforts of ten thousand opponents to suppress its course.

ED.

A correspondent from the far west observes, in a recent communication, that, "the intelligent writer over the signature W. T. in the 12th number of the Recorder, has done himself great credit: he merits the esteem and gratitude of all consistent friends of the "Great and good cause!" Such mild rational reasoning not only gives light and strength to its friends, but it will induce the doubting to enquire, the multitude to respect, and confound the pride of opinion and the designs of selfishness.

Truth is up and onward! Our wrongs are redressed, our rights secured, and oppressors have felt the weighty influence of the botanic institution. The rational enjoyment of our just and equitable rights and privileges confers on us the most distinguishing gem in the crown of earthly felicity.

While the sun shines, the wind blows, "the earth bears a plant or the Sea rolls a wave," may virtuous, rational self government, founded on just knowledge and sound experience, enable every man and woman to live rationally and happily, that whether in health or sickness, in prosperity or adversity, they may enjoy the consolation of that mental independence that constitutes much of the genuine felicity of life: they will become their own teachers, physicans and Pleadors. "Man's wants are few, and without opulence may be happily supplied." "But man's inhumanity to man, makes countless million mourn."

ROBERT.

**THE RECORDER.****COLUMBUS,**

SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1833.

**CHOLERA AT MAYSVILLE.**

Let the sons and daughters of humanity rejoice—Let a greedy, avaricious, conceited, vanity-stricken FACULTY stand aghast and wonder! *Ye fled ingloriously!* The destroying Angel passed through your once joyous city, spreading devastation, death and mourning as he flew. But the graduated M. D's escaped for their lives. Are *then* the men to censure and condemn the steam doctor, and his remedies, by which such multitudes have been Thomsonized back from the verge of the grave? Will ye malignantly tear from the brow of the meritorious and triumphant conqueror of pestilence, the laurels that ye are not entitled to wear? Kind Heaven! deliver us from wicked and unreasonable men! The Thomsonian practice has every where succeeded to admiration, and distanced all competition, wherever opportunity has offered faithfully to test its value: The faculty feel themselves degraded, and they hate the name of Thomson. To mention in their hearing the marvelous cures affected by Thomsonian remedies, provokes a sneer, and often, a kind of a monkey grin, in which there is nothing worthy of attention, but the consummate insolence and impudence intended to be expressed.

"What shall we learned doctors, with our DIPLOMA's from under the hands of learned professors, be compelled to take to our heels and fly before the cholera, like criminals attempting to allude the pursuit of the civil officer? And shall these patented Thomsonians be allowed with their steam, their lobelia, their cayenne, their No. 6, their nerve powder and their cholera syrup,

to huddle and drive us from town and city? And with plebian skill flich from our mouths our daily bread? What! strip us of our honor! Rouse Esculapians rouse! Come on brothers of the lancet, calomel and tartar! You had better die, says the mercurial veteran, than live thus ingloriously, and ignominiously disgraced." These are the ravings of Dr. HYDRAEURUS, a learned professor of *materia medica*, oliminal practice, chymistry, mathematics, and kitchen economy.

How long will the people be blinded? Who is so obstinate that he will not be convinced by the joint testimony of thousands? The regular college doctors, adhering to their mineral remedies are every where unfortunate—Instead of facing the enemy like men having confidence in their learned skill, they have turned their backs upon the destroyer. From the "Louisville Price Current," we here copy, an extract of a letter, which the editor of said paper asserts was written from a highly respectable PHYSICIAN of Maysville, dated

*Maysville, Sunday, June 2.*

"Maysville has been visited with a most awful scourge. Cholera never prevailed so bad in any place that I have had any account of. All that have been taken, have died! Almost every body has left the city. No store or house of business has been open for several days.

ALL THE DOCTORS ARE GONE! We [Doctors] have no inducement to stay! "We cannot control the disease!" "This disease," adds the doctor, "is also prevailing to some extent, in Harrison, Scott and Bourbon counties."—We will now present our readers with an extract of a letter from our venerable, intelligent, wealthy, and very respectable friend Dr. Nathan Hixson. True, he has on a former occasion declined the title of Doctor, but we move, that as a token of respect, due to his character and standing as a

physician in the treatment of cholera in his vicinity, that a grateful community confer on him the diplomatic title of THOMSONIAN DOCTOR. The communication alluded to, is dated,

*Maysville, June 23, 1833.*

TO MESSRS JARVIS & PIKE, & Co.

GENTLEMEN—I presume before this you have heard of the severe visitation of our city by the cholera. I presume you may also possibly have heard something of the good success of the Thomsonian system, or method of treatment. Such things are frequently misrepresented. For the most part, facts will be overrated by friends, and greatly undervalued by opponents.

I take the liberty of forwarding to you a few copies of a communication I had published in the MONITOR of this week.

This story of mine has been told in great haste. I have not had time and leisure to draw up a very minute and accurate report. If I had both time and leisure, I have not the tact nor talent in medical matters that might be expected from a Doctor.—I think a report made out by me as skillfully and cautiously as my best abilities would enable me to do, it would, after all my attention, bear some resemblance to a "cat in a strange garret."

Put me in a flour mill, a paper mill or, at a steam engine and I can match half a dozen of the best doctors, (so called) in this city. It is also said, that if I be placed at the bedside of a cholera patient, I cast them back quite into the shade. But gentlemen, when medical reports are wanted, I make no pretension, to any skill in pathology—or in the cobweb theories of disease, that so much divide and distract the learned world. I cheerfully surrender the palm to my competitors on this ground: not that I know anything less of the cholera, as a disease, but I have paid less attention to their fanciful doctrines and their peculiar, whimsical technicalities of medical science as taught in the schools.

It is probable that you are aware that I have never before attempted any thing like holding myself up as a medical practitioner. When the disease first broke out in this city, I had a few medicines on hand, provided for family use!

I tried them first on my friends. The printed communication which I have forwarded to you will give you more extensive information in relation to the result, than I can now find leisure to communicate. You will understand that we had eight or ten regular physicians in the city. They have treated me through the whole scene as the faculty have every where treated successful Thomsonians. With the exception of being a Thomsonian, I sustained a reputation as a man of business, and as a professor of Christianity, which was as well established as the medical standing of either of them was.

To this ungentlemanly kind of conduct there were some exceptions, but a majority of them treated me as one whom they accounted an intruder and usurper of some *exclusive* rights and privileges of theirs. I frequently stepped in to see heir patients, as I was visiting mine own, and passing by. I had a desire to see and know for myself what their success was. You may be sure I was received with great marks of coldness. But enough of all this—the fact is, they treated me just as the regular faculty are accustomed to treat us quacks, yes, just as they should treat us in order to put themselves down, and to fully establish our system.

I am informed that the faculty intend to contest every fact that I have stated in my publication. I sincerely dislike the feelings that are generally excited in such an unpleasant controverey, but as for the result, I anticipate with the firmest expectation a most glorious triumph.

At the commencement I had not any thoughts of practising, as I afterwards had to do, for I saw no way that I could avoid it. For the three last weeks I think I have had nearly three fourths of all the medical practice in cholera, scarlet fever, &c. that has prevailed in the city. If the regular doctors will only contrive how to put themselves down a little lower, I shall be compelled to open a shop and obtain an assistant.

N. HIXSON.

We have read with deep attention Dr. Hixson's communication, and also the subjoined publication. It appears that such is the humanity and benevolent

feelings of the faculty, that they prefer to see the world dying round them multitudes, *secundum artem*, rather than to see them rationally cured on a plan congenial to that good common sense which but few of our learned professors have courage to pursue.

As for the truth of doctor Hixson's statement, we should be astonished at the mere whimper of contradiction. Friends and foes have long venerated his veracity. The faculty are touched in a tender spot. Their indignation is merciless.

It serves to show how deeply their pride is wounded, and to expose the malevolence of retarded ambition. The people must be measurably acquainted with the great leading facts. They will arbitrate the cause. Still the multitude are not leaders, but they are misled. They will look up to those whom they esteem learned with a kind of superstitious homage and veneration. But we contend that the regular faculty were remarkably unsuccessful in the treatment of the cholera, and nearly half of their cholera patients died.

2. We contend that all, or nearly all of the regular Doctors in the city, abandoned the sick, and despairing of success they escaped for their lives.

3. We contend that their wisdom was confounded, their skill baffled, and all their medical, surgical, and anatomical knowledge was of no avail. It gave neither moral, intellectual or physical courage, and furnished no security against the ravages of the overflowing, desolating scourge. Mark the testimony of one of the most reputable of the faculty in that devoted city." "All the doctors are, gone!" "We have no inducement to stay." "We cannot control the disease!" Have medical colleges and universities agreed to take the responsibility of such a dishonorable, and

glorious retreat upon themselves? If t, how shall these deserters pacify the blie mind? Hush the spirit of enqui- ! And raise the wind to blow away e reproach that gathers round them? On the other hand behold Dr. Hixson, th his Thomsonian medicine, like the or wise man who saved a city before n, shall he be forgotten? Will the uly continue to recommend their adly drugs, their murcury, opium, d long list of poisonous medicines, at have been so extensively fatal, and ll the people continue stupidly to allow them?

Could some one of the Regular Fa- lty have been as fortunate as Dr. Hix- n, that is, had he have cured as many, easily, and promptly, would he not ve been venerated even by his en- ous brethren? Would he not have een a candidate for some new college onors? Might he not have anticipated dvancement from M. D. to L. L. D., nd to have become an honorary mem- er of all the most popular, literary, hu- mane, and benevolent institutions that istinguish the present age of the world?

Amidst the follies, delusions, preju- ices, and blind superstitions of our ay, we have this consolation, that the 'homsonian System is advancing with rm and steady step. We anticipate he period when the knowledge of the rinciples that govern his practice shall ll the habitable world, as completely nd entirely as the mighty waters cover he wide bosom of the great deep!

*Nathan Hixson's Treatment of Cholera, in Maysville, as published in the Monitor, 20th June, 1833.*

MESSRS EDITORS:—I have been soli- cited by many of my friends, to draw up and publish a minute report of all Cholera cases for which I have prescribed, and those which I have attended since the disease visited our City in the last week of May.

They have urged that I am bound to do this, not so much to boast of my un- exampled success in curing this truly appalling disease where it appeared to resist all other remedies; but that I am bound to do it for the benefit and relief

of some of our friends and fellow-citi- zens who have fled to the country, and who, through fear of certain death, should they be attacked, are still flying from farm to farm, or from village to village as the disease appears to pur- sue them. They further urge that oth- ers are endangering their lives by re- lying on remedies less efficient—rem- edies which have not saved one in ten where fairly tried in the hands of the most skillful; while my remedies, of which they appear ignorant, have not failed on one in ten, when applied strict- ly according to my directions. It is not the cause of our friends and fellow-cit- izens only, but the cause of suffering humanity at large, which is urged in fa- vor of such a publication. They say look at Flemingsburg! Look at Lex- ington!!

As further inducement to make this publication, if inducement could be wanting, I have been informed that there are some quite respectable and influential individuals not only engaged in telling many strange and ridiculous stories about my practice—my *steaming* and my *burning folks up*; but they have also boldly asserted that I have not cu- red a case of Cholera in Maysville, and this too only a few miles distant from the scores of *living* witnesses now in the City, ready to testify to the two important facts at issue—that they have had the Cholera, and that Nathan Hix- son or his prescriptions have cured them

We might suppose, that at a time like this, men who thro' fear of death, could lend a deaf ear to all the cries of chari- ty and suffering humanity; nor once think of feeding the hungry, nursing the sick or burying the dead, until they arrived at some cool shade or healthy country seat, would feel more like pre- paring to "*give an account for the deeds done in the dody*," or more like reflec- ting what shall be the portion of "*him who loveth and maketh a lie*," than like fabricating and circulating reports to injure an individual engaged as I have been for the last three weeks; or worse still, in trying to prejudice the minds of the people against, and prevent them from resorting to, such Cholera rem- edies as are calculated to save their lives. Had nine out of every ten in Flemingsburg been saved, how differ-

ent, how limited would have been the scenes of mourning. Had nine out of every ten I have been called to attend fallen, how different, how mournful would have been the circle in which I have practiced; and how many mournful countenances would I meet where now are smiling faces.

Why did not these gentlemen hold of my remedies, and fly to Flemingsburg, and do for suffering humanity there, what has been done here.—I withheld my medicines and prescriptions from no man, and they wanted neither the hand nor the head of a Doctor to give them efficacy. They owe many obligations to their fellows, to their country and their God, which it would be quite as honorable for them to engage in, as in the work of detraction and slander.

But enough—we plead not these apologies nor any others for the publication we now offer through your paper. We regret that we have not time to write out such a report as is requested. But we will endeavor to give such facts as will satisfy the most sceptical that our remedies are not only simple and safe, but efficient.

We will give the component parts of our principal mixture, and such plain directions for compounding and using it, that the veriest novice may with safety make and use it—this suffering humanity claims at our hands, and this with all cheerfulness we give.

Our Medicines are all simple and innocent—they can be used with safety on all ages and sexes. There is not a mineral, not a poison among them.—They all belong to the Thomsonian System. That System of Medicine, which, by its astonishing cures, is bearing down the prejudices, and gaining the confidence of the people from Maine to Georgia, and from Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico.

*Thomson's Cholera Mixture, or an improvement of Dr. John Thomson's Cholera preventive*

- 1 ounce African Cayenne Pepper.
- 1 do. Xanthoxylum.
- 2 do. Race Ginger pulverized.
- 1 do. Golden Seal.
- 1 do. Nerve Powder.
- 1 do. Mountain Hemlock.
- 1 do. Bayberry.

Put these into a bag, and steep boil it in one gallon of water until have from two to three quarts of strong tea, to which add,

- 1 gallon good Orleans Molasses.
- 1-2 do. good 4th Proof Rum.
- 3 pints Thomson's No. 6.

#### DIRECTIONS.

While exposed to Cholera, take as preventive, one table spoon-full three or four times per day; and for children or feeble persons, less in proportion to strength or age. To check the diarrhoea, or cure the disease after the attack is confirmed; go to bed, put dry bricks wrapped in dry cloths to the feet, take two or three table spoon-fulls of the mixture every 15 or 20 minutes until it produces a free and natural perspiration, after which reduce the portions to such quantity as will keep up a free perspiration for 12 to 18 hours, which in most cases will be about one spoon-full per hour, keeping the warm applications to the feet.

It is important to observe the following indications of cure under this treatment which usually are ease from pain, and a flow of blood to the extremities or a florid complexion and an increase of pulse, with warmth of face and extremities. These are followed by a free natural perspiration. The whole system appears to be restored to a healthy action, and all cramps, spasms, diarrhoea and other fatal symptoms appear to dissolve or vanish.

By keeping up this healthy action by these simple means for 12, 24 or 36 hours, we have seen the most confirmed cases of Cholera yield, and the patient arise from his bed, suffering only the debility which this most prostrating of all diseases always produces. The patient thus raised to health—proper attention to diet, moderate exercise and a limited use of the mixture, which is an excellent tonic; or to it, add a little of Thomson's No. 3 and 4, or if nervous, frequently take a tea spoon full of Nerve Powder in a tea spoon-full of No. 6. In this state of convalescence, we have seen much injury done by harrassing and debilitating the patient with emetics and cathartics; we have rarely found more than tonics necessary, and in the patient will but have a little rest.



e will find himself gain strength quite fast by a proper use of diet and exercise under a natural or healthy action, and under a stimulated or forced one.

The greatest difficulty that presents itself in this treatment, is, that in some instances where the stomach is very weak or much irritated this mixture will not stop the puking, and when it will not lie on the stomach, of course it cannot afford relief. To allay puking, we give it in small quantities, and if that fails, we give in a spoon-full of it, a tea spoon-full of No. 6; this failing we try No. 6 alone. But when called to a patient puking, or with stomach much irritated, we try the mixture and if that is thrown up a second time we give the 3d preparation of Thomson's No. 1, one tea spoon full in a spoon-full of the Mixture, and repeat it two or three times in from 5 to 10 minutes, which generally pukes freely, and in about 30 minutes, after which the Mixture will generally lie on the stomach in sufficient quantities to produce the desired effect. But if this fails other articles should be immediately resorted to; remembering that there are many articles which will stop puking, and that no one will do it at all times in all persons.

We have found some cases in which the spasms would not yield to the perspiration under the mixture; and some in which the patient was tossing and rolling from side to side of the bed, so that a perspiration could not be produced by the Mixture and warm applications, it being impossible to seclude them from the air—in all such cases we have succeeded by giving the 3rd preparation No. 1, from a tea spoon-full to a table spoon-full, in a table spoon-full of the Mixture, every 10 minutes, until it quiets the nerves and muscles; this is generally followed by puking and a free perspiration, which should be kept up by the mixture as at first directed, and indications of cure usually follow.

We seldom find it necessary to resort to injections, but when we do, it is either to stimulate, or to check the diarrhoea. In both of these cases, we have used first, a strong tea of Zanthoxylum, Ginger, Bayberry and Golden Seal, adding such a portion of No. 6 or the Mixture as the case re-

quires. These astringents and stimulating injections having passed off, follow them immediately with one of soup or a tea of Pond Lilly, or Witch Hazle and Nerve Powder.---But we have not time to detail the practice further.—The Thomsonian practitioner can resort to his inexhaustable resources when these have failed him.

The success of our remedies have astonished even ourselves. Our mixture or preventive was only intended to check diarrhoea or counteract what the doctors call the premonitory symptoms.

During the first week, and before our physicians surrendered the practice; we had many cases of diarrhoea---say twenty to thirty, a great portion of which were as strongly marked Cholera before we administered, as any we saw or heard of among those to whom our physicians administered, were when they gave their first medicines. A number of these persons are in town, & if our statement is questioned, to them we refer. They all recovered and so far as we know, now enjoy good health.

When our citizens and physicians fled from the city, our success was spread and we were spoken to, to attend most of the remaining families and individuals.

The disease still raged,---we could not attend half the calls in person, but by the assistance of Richard C. Ricketts, Samuel Rowzee and Wm. Corwine to prepare and distribute the medicine and give directions, both of which being very simple and easily administered, we believe there were few if any whose calls were not attended. Those who were unable to relieve themselves, or whose cases appeared most stubborn we generally attended in the character of a physician, visiting them from one to six or eight times per day. Of this last number we have before us a list of upwards of seventy, and by a little effort of memory could increase it probably to one hundred, since the 1st day of June, not embracing those spoken of. Being thus over run, and almost every night broken down with fatigue, and every morning debilitated for want of rest, we could not render to every case the treatment and attention it required.---And simple as are our medicines and

prescriptions, the people being entirely unaccustomed to the Thomsonian medicines and our mode of stimulating, they would only about half comply with the directions, unless we were present to direct, and in many instances fright them to it by the assurance that they had their choice, submission or death.--

Under these circumstances it is strange we have lost no more. Here is the list, read it and you will be astonished also:

John Armstrong's Black Girl---Stripped off a flannel frock, and otherwise exposed herself after she had been in a fine perspiration with other indications of cure for two or three hours---restored her a second time to a fine action, and she relapsed from exposure a second time and died next morning.

Old Branham's Son, A black boy, 6 to 10 years old, was hopeless when called in, died in a few hours.

Mr. Brown's Son collapsed---eyes set in his head and most evidently dying when called.

George Maddox. The disease had run until his stomach and bowels were so debilitated that the most efficient medicines effected them no more than cold water. He sunk immediately and died.

George Burrass--attended and relieved him---expressed his gratitude in strong terms the next morning that we had saved his life, spent the day, and we are informed the next night comfortably, save a little spree of drinking; relapsed on the 13th and when we called to see him, was partially delirious and dying.

Doctor Dorsy---called in the evening---his attack was a violent one; his stomach and bowels were so irritated and debilitated, that we could not arouse them to action by our strongest stimulents. Whether this must be attributed

to the run of the disease, or to the action of other remedies previously applied; we have not been informed; but it is the first case that appeared fairly to resist our remedies.--He sunk.

E. D. Boon's Son, William, 3 years old, his father supposed his a worm complaint, and let it run until his stomach and bowels were irritated; we gave an emetic and some mixture with teas, but he sunk and died that evening.

In addition to these we recollect no

others only Mrs. Phillips, to whom we were called in consultation, but not until she was dying; and one or two who changed physicians and died under other treatment.

We thus hastily submit our remedies with our own story of their success, to you, and through you to the public. You will pardon our enthusiasm---We have read of the cholera and its ravages, and no where have we read more completely baffling the skill of the most able physicians than here. Then we have met and checked it here with our simple weapons, and saved the lives of our friends, of our wives and our children, indulge us a little in our rejoicing. And to you, and our friends we say, take our remedies---give them a fair trial, and if they but save you, what they have done for us---we will then be able to "rejoice with those that do rejoice."

NATHAN HIXSON.

P. S. That you may judge of the present state of the disease, we will serve, that we have been called to attend.

On the 16th, four cases.

On the 17th, two cases.

On the 18th, two new cases and one relapse.

On the 19th, one case.

This morning 20th, 9 o'clock, A. M. two new cases, and one relapse.

N. HIXSON.

Jarvis Pike & Co., General Agents for Dr. S. Thomson, have for sale, at their Medicine Store, the above Cholera Medicine. Also, a general assortment of Thomsonian Medicines.

Extract of a letter dated,  
Huntsville, June 18, 1835

Messrs. Pike & Co:--The Cholera is approaching upon us. It is raging in Pulaski and three miles from Athens. I spent a few days in Pulaski this week, and there I had the great satisfaction to see for myself, that the TERROR of nations will yield to the Thomsonian remedies. Out of about fifty cases that were attended to by the Thomsonians in that place, not one died. Yours, &c.

WALLER & BASS

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

“ Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,”  
“ And practice be combined with common sense.”

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HERSEY, *Senior Editor.*

VOL. I ] COLUMBUS, JULY 13, 1833. [No. 21.

## THE ECLECTIC—No. VI.

Being a discussion of AMERICAN rights and privileges, as it regards the PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, and the rights of discovery: By B. WATERHOUSE, M. D. Professor of theory and practice of Physic, and Lecturer on Natural History in the University at Cambridge, Mass.

## THE ECLECTIC No. VI.

We can never be really in danger until the FORMS of Law are made use of to destroy the SUBSTANCE of our Liberties.—JUNIUS.

The subject of these numbers will now be presented to the public in a serious point of view, that of a citizen persecuted for exertions in favor of suffering humanity; and should the narrative recall to mind the lamentable transactions of 1692, we cannot wonder at the association, especially when the same county is implicated. In extenuation of those errors of our forefathers, it may be remarked, that a century and a half ago, a belief in the reality of witchcraft prevailed in Old England as well as in New. Our ancestors brought the delusion with them.—The arts of the designing were borrowed, and the credulity of the populace augmented from the parent country, where laws were made against witches. But what excuse can be offered for a persecuting spirit since we have stood alone, an independent nation?

Samuel Thomson, on whom nature had conferred a degree in physic, with a steady and fearless spirit in practicing it, tells his readers, between pages 92 and 112 of his narrative, that his success in curing diseases, in which others had tried their skill and failed, excited envy, hatred, and malice, with the usual consequences of such malignant passions, for whom men fear, they hate, and whom they hate, they wish to destroy. As facts could not be entirely smothered, the envious attempt-

ed to discolor them by ridicule, or by rendering the physician odious with opprobrious epithets; hence they nick-named him as the “old wizzard,” the “Indian doctor,” and “the dealer with the Devil,” &c. They also nick-named his medicines.

It seems that Thomson had a large share of practice, and a very considerable run of success in the town of Salisbury, in Essex, where dwelt a Dr. French, who was particularly disturbed by the successful career of our Empiric. During Thomson's absence from town and vicinity, on a visit to his family, this Dr. French appears, from the narrative, to have meditated his ruin; For, on Thomson's return to Salisbury, he was informed that a bill of indictment had been, or was about to be, found, for the murder of Ezra Lovett, twelve months before. We would here remark, that the narrative, in this part, is a little obscure, owing no doubt to the narrator's ignorance of the forms and technicalities of the law; but there is no contradiction, and the meaning is obvious.

We learn from out the narrative, that, after a bill of indictment for wilful murder against Samuel Thomson, had been found by the manœuvres of Dr. French, and a Deacon P., who was one of the Grand Jury, they got people to advise and urge Thomson to run off, and keep out of the way of prosecution; but he stiffly refused to do so, and declared he preferred meeting his trial to leaving the ground. At 10 o'clock at night, Dr. French came to Thomson's lodgings with an officer, who pronounced him a prisoner of the Commonwealth. He was then taken to French's house, and a guard placed over him, where the owner of it insulted him in a shameful manner, without any thing being said by the prisoner to provoke it. Before day-light the complainant, French, rode off to Salem to fetch the bill of indictment. Before

he returned, Thomson was carried before a justice of the peace, who also was a physician and a friend of his accuser; but he postponed the examination until near night. In the meantime the constable took him to his own house, and put him in a back room, leaving him entirely alone in that part of the house. When the constable and others returned to it, some of them asked Thomson why he did not make his escape, as he easily might, through a back window, which was not fastened? He replied, that he was in no fear of the consequences of their indictment—he was determined to be tried upon it. The juggle of all this is too manifest for remark. They meant to drive him out of the country, or confine him in prison throughout the approaching winter and spring. The farce of an examination was merely to wait the return of the prime accuser, French, who brought with him the sheriff's officer, to whom Thomson was delivered, and directly put in irons. French renewed this opportunity to abuse him in the most savage terms, declaring that he should be hung, or else consigned to prison for life. In iron shackles this disciple of the most ancient school of the Empirics was conveyed to Newburyport, and put into a most loathsome dungeon, with a man who had been convicted of a most heinous crime towards an infant, and sentenced to solitary confinement. The culprit was very glad to have company. It seems that Thomson had braced up his soul to meet with firmness any event; but that this condemned cell was worse than he expected. He found neither chair nor table, and nothing but a bundle of straw on the floor for a bed, and one skabby blanket that appeared to have never been washed. He suffered much from the peculiar cold of a dungeon, neither fire nor candle was allowed. "I tried," says the unfortunate man, "to compose myself to rest, but could get no sleep the first night. I felt something crawling over me, accompanied with a burning and itching. Not suspecting the cause, I inquired of my fellow-sufferer what it was? He told me it was lice, and there were enough in that dungeon to shingle a meeting house." To fill up the measure of his misery, filth (of the

worst sort) ran from the rooms above into their cell, which was so offensive that he was almost stifled with the stench.

Had this man really committed murder in the first degree, such a condition of confinement, and such a state of suffering before trial, is far beyond the circumference of our laws; and the sheriff who is the legal jailor of the county ought to have been called to an account for it.

The morning light was described to have been about sufficient, through the iron grate, to convince the prisoner of his horrible situation: confined to a small space between stone and mortar, the air loaded with stinking vapour, and their bodies the nourishment of the most loathsome of vermin, most damp the spirits of any man; yet, notwithstanding all this, Thomson says that his innocence gave him spirit, and restrained him from loud lamentation. At length he was called to, through the grating to take his breakfast, which consisted of musty or damaged coffee in an old tin pot, without milk or sweetening, so very bad as to be unwholesome. To this liquid was added a tin pan containing hard pieces of Indian bread, and the "nape" of a fish, too hard for his teeth to manage. This inadequate fare served them both till 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when about the same quantity was brought, which was all allowed them until the next morning.

What has now been stated is true, or it is false, or exaggerated. If false, the calumny, even at this distance of time, can be detected; but, if strictly true, what a stain does it leave on these officers of the county of Essex, to whom the care and safe keeping of prisoners are entrusted before trial? It is said, that however these things may have been 16 years ago, they are in a measure remedied by a new prison. But is the principle in the treatment of prisoners essentially altered?

The next day, Mr. Osgood, a benevolent man of the Society of "Friends," came from Salisbury to visit the incarcerated Empiric, when, on witnessing his miserable situation, he was so affected by it that he could scarcely speak. He did not attempt to comfort

him by words merely, but went out and brought in wholesome provisions, which he needed; for it is hardly probable, according to Thomson's account, that he could have survived the winter on such bad and scanty food. When I detailed to my worthy friend Osgood, says Thomson, my being hand-cuffed, and when he perceived my miserable lodgings and filthy cell, he wept like a child. And may He who has glorified the virtue of such as visit the "sick and imprisoned," reward him for it! This good man furnished the prisoner with a proper bed, and with such a stock of provisions as not only supplied his fellow-sufferer with a sufficiency, but allowed his wretched wife to carry the scraps and crusts to her starving children. She came every day to the prison. The condition of this miserable couple was so much worse than my own, says Thomson, that I derived consolation and resignation from the comparison.

Christian reader! I have epitomized the tale as given by Thomson himself, and printed by E. G. House, in this city, with now and then an elucidation from oral statements, the result of inquiry into the truth of the narrative. If I impose a false story on my readers, I can only say that I myself suffer under the like imposition. A closer investigation might betray to Thomson and his friends the writer of these numbers.—They may, however, serve as a clue to the whole truth, should any part of it be concealed.

In a few days after Mr Osgood's benevolent visit, came Judge Rice, from Kittery. He is a Judge of the common pleas, and has been a member of the Legislature one-and-twenty years.—This respectable gentleman had honored Thomson with his friendship, and with his good opinion and confidence as a practitioner of medicine. He brought a lawyer with him, and we consulted, says Thomson, together; and it was concluded to petition for a special court, otherwise I should have to remain in my dungeon almost a year.—Why this was chosen in preference to the more summary mode of a writ of habeas corpus, does not appear. They, however, took it for granted that a man could not be bailed on such an indict-

ment and under his peculiar circumstances; a doctrine which I venture to doubt, both on principles of common sense and common equity.

Judge Rice undertook this business of obtaining a prompt trial by a special court, with great zeal. Thomson says, I think he told me, that he or Mr. Bartlett rode back and forth between Newburyport and Boston, fifteen times. At length Chief Justice Parsons concluded reluctantly, to hold a court at Salem on the 10th of December, 1809, which was one month from Thomson's commitment. During that time the weather was very cold, and the prisoner suffered greatly from that cause, perhaps more from his favorite theory, and from the foulness of the air. Such was its noisome state that his visitants could not endure to stay long in it.

By a New England custom, prisoners of all sorts experience more than ordinary attention on a Thanksgiving day; accordingly, those in the Newburyport prison were collected in the upper story of the building, where, says Thomson, we took together our supper, when we tried to be cheerful and enjoy our meal. The assemblage consisted of murderers, thieves, robbers, and poor debtors. Among them was an universal complaint of the filthiness and very bad condition of the prison. Before it was quite dark, Thomson and his companion were waited on to their dismal den again.

Being provided with materials for writing, our Empiric resolved to try if his muse could sing as well in a cage as in the woods and fields. And, in this situation, he wrote the Medical circular—The Doctor and Calomel, and some other light pieces, which have been printed in New York and elsewhere. However distressed by an improper prison, these productions show that Thomson's mind was not depressed by the heart-sinking passions of conscious guilt and remorse. It is the innocent soul that is elastic.

When about to be removed to Salem for trial, he was taken out of his cell to be cleansed, fit to be seen in a public court, and was permitted to breakfast by a fire; but the change was too great, and sudden faintness was the consequence. After an interval sufficient for



recovery, the irons were again fixed on his wrists, and thus shackled he was conveyed to the county town. The weather was cold, roads bad, and the distance twenty-five miles ; and I was, says Thomson, distressed by the handcuffs, which caused the blood to settle under my nails. We learnt, on our arrival, that the trial was postponed ten days, by reason of the indisposition of Judge Parsons, for which I was not sorry, because my confinement in the Salem jail was much more comfortable than that of Newburyport, and, as it allowed what I much needed, a little tranquil leisure. Although still deprived of the comfort of a fire, he was visited by some respectable inhabitants, among whom he mentions the Baptist minister, Bowles, whom he had benefitted by his medicines, and Capt. R. whose lady sent her servant twice every day with warm coffee and other grateful articles, so that, by the time his trial came on, he had lain in a pretty good stock of health and spirits. Some good ladies, particularly one who had been cured of the dropsy by the prisoner, took care that his clothing should be made fit for his public appearance.

It was concluded by my friends to employ also as counsellor, Joseph Story, Esq., whose fee was paid by a contribution of persons belonging to the Rev. Mr. Bowles' congregation.

The trial was before Chief Justice Parsons, Judges Sewall and Parker.

After the usual forms of reading the indictment, &c., the Solicitor General opened the prosecution, by stating that Samuel Thomson had, at sundry times, killed his patients with a deadly poison called Lobelia, &c. &c. (See Tyng's Reports, Vol. sixth.) And, Dr. Howe being called to give evidence, swore that the prisoner gave the poisonous plant to the deceased, Ezra Lovett, Jr., and that it was the Lobelia, and produced a sample of it, which was handed around the court at arms length, while some held their nose, such was the horror which the Solicitor and the indictment had excited. But what was their surprise when Judge Rice first smelt of it strongly, and then eat it ! The Solicitor General exclaimed in a tone of astonishment, "what, sir ! are you going to poison yourself in the presence of the court?"

Then came the prime mover of the prosecution, Dr. French, of Salisbury, whose evidence several in the court imagined would complete Thomson's ruin; but so overwhelmed in confusion and sunken in spirits was this vindictive man, that he contradicted himself, and probably said what he did not mean to say. Nothing chagrins the wicked more than to find their stiletto not driven with sufficient force to reach the heart of the intended victim. A wounded enemy is a dangerous object.

The next witness for the Commonwealth (Mr. Lemon) actually testified strongly in Thomson's favor, and gave evidence to his skill and success in his own case, where his cure was complete. Then came two young women whom Thomson said he never saw before, and they swore that Dr. Thomson crossed his emetics down Lovett's throat by main force, while he cried murder : the violence till he expired !

The Rev. Dr. Cutler was then called on the part of the Commonwealth to relate what he knew of the efficacy and safety of the Lobelia. He gave clear evidence of its efficacy and safety. For, having been afflicted himself with the asthma, he was advised by Dr. Drury, of Marblehead, who was also an asthmatic, to employ *this* remedy. It cured both of them. As far as I can trace it, I am led to believe that Dr. Drury learnt the efficacy of the emetic herb in asthmatic cases, from Thomson's practice, who long before used it in the form of tincture.

The Chief Justice asked the Solicitor General, in a tone of impatience, what sort of men composed the Grand Jury, who could find a bill for murder on such evidence? It ought, however, to be mentioned, that Barnabas Bidwell, Esq. who has since emigrated to Canada, officiated at that period as county attorney.

We ask the reader's attention to the report of the trial of Samuel Thomson as it is written in the sixth Volume of Tyng's Reports. It is there said, that Thomson came into Beverly, where Lovett lived, announced himself as physician, and professed an ability to cure all fevers, whether black, grey, green, or yellow. [Now it is remarkable that Thomson rejects, in his writings, these varieties, and contends for

the identity, or universality of fever, and absolutely derides the distinctions here sneered at.]

The reporter next describes the process of sweating and puking Lovett, until he was ordered to a warm bed, where he lay in a profuse sweat all night. He represents him as comfortable the next day, which was Tuesday; on Wednesday afternoon the prisoner gave him two more emetic powders, with drafts of his "coffee."\* On Thursday the deceased appeared to be comfortable. In the afternoon he was again sweated, and on Friday and Saturday he continued to be so comfortable that Thomson ceased to visit him; but it appears, by his printed narrative, and by William Raymond's testimony, that Lovett, after being charged not to expose himself abroad, actually went down to the sea shore on a raw cold day, with the wind at east, took a severe cold and relapse, with alarming symptoms, among which was delirium and convulsions; on which Thomson was again sent for from Salem, and directly pronounced him beyond the reach of medicine. But there is no statement of this sort in the report, neither is a word there said of Lovett, the father, 'urging the prisoner to administer something to his son, even against hope;' and the report says, that, after repeated doses of medicine, it ceased to operate, and that great debility ensued, and convulsions and loss of reason continued till he expired. All that has now been advanced, and more would have been proved, had the prisoner been put on his defence.

The Solicitor General also stated, says the report, that before Lovett applied to the prisoner, several patients had died under his hands; and, to prove this statement, he called several witnesses, of whom but one appeared, and he, on the contrary, testified that he was relieved by Thomson from his complaint, which had not since returned. "And there was no evidence, says the reporter in the cause, that the pri-

\*When Thomson gave an infusion which was somewhat nauseous, he used to add sugar and milk to it, and called it his coffee; but bull dog and ram cat, and screw auger, were nicknames used by the country people only.

soner, in the course of his very novel practice, had experienced any fatal accident among his patients." Thus far the report; and if it does not amount to an honorable acquittal, I know not what does. Why then cast reflections on the innocent?

I have been thus particular on account of the charge of the Chief Justice to the Jury, which concludes the article of the Commonwealth versus Samuel Thomson, for the wilful murder of Ezra Lovett, Jr., which strikes a common man, who is no juris consultus, as something extraordinary, especially when we consider that the Judge was recommending a dismissal of the prosecution upon the very evidence adduced against the prisoner.

The Chief Justice observed to the Jury, "that the deceased lost his life by the unskilful treatment of the prisoner, did not seem to admit of any reasonable doubt." [However we at this distance of fifteen years, presume very strongly to doubt it]—But of this point the Jury were to judge. "Before the Monday evening preceding the death of Lovett, he had, by profuse sweats, and by often repeated doses of the emetic powder, been reduced very low." [But previously to this, Lovett had broken the order of his physician to remain in the house, and had gone down to the sea shore to see his friend, when "the wind was easterly and extremely cold;"—and had a severe relapse, accompanied with delirium.] "In this state," continues the Chief Justice, "on that evening, other doses of the 'Indian tobacco' were administered. When the second portion did not operate, probably because the tone of his stomach was destroyed, the repetition of them, that they might operate as a cathartic, was followed by convulsion fits, loss of reason and death."

All this is at variance with the evidence which Thomson had ready to adduce in Court, had not his prompt acquittal deprived him of the wished-for opportunity of advancing it. [See Wm. Raymond's certificate in No. 4, where he says that he was knowing to all that took place in Lovett's last illness, Thomson relieved him and made him "comfortable," according to Judge Parsons himself, in his first attack.]

When Thomson was called in, after Lovett had, by his own imprudence, suffered a relapse, accompanied with the loss of reason and convulsions, he declared that the young man was beyond the reach of medicine. But here T. was to blame in not adhering to his first resolution of resisting the importunity of the father in giving his son more medicine. It was done to satisfy the patient's father, against the declared judgment of the physician.

Judge Parsons continues thus—"But though innocent of the crime of murder, the prisoner may, on his indictment, be convicted of manslaughter, if the evidence be sufficient. And the Solicitor General strongly urged, that the prisoner was guilty of manslaughter, because he rashly and presumptuously administered to the deceased a deleterious medicine, which, in his hands, by reason of his gross ignorance, became a deadly poison."

"The prisoner's ignorance is, in this case apparent. On any other ground consistent with his innocence, it is not easy to conceive, that, on the Monday evening before the death, when the second dose of this powerful emetic had failed to operate through the extreme weakness of the deceased, he could expect a repetition of these fatal poisons would prove a cathartic and relieve the patient." [Here the ignorance of the Judge is more apparent than Thomson's. There were then, perhaps, a dozen people within the sound of his voice, who could have changed his ignorance into intelligence. How gratifying must this have been to the feelings of the arraigned at the bar for murdering a man whom he had relieved and rendered "comfortable!"]

The Judge, after making the well-known distinctions between felonious homicide, murder, and manslaughter, proceeds thus—"In the present case, there is no evidence that the prisoner, either from his own experience, or from the information of others, had any knowledge of the fatal effects of the Indian Tobacco, (for so the learned Judge calls the *Lobelia Inflata*, but on what authority we are ignorant,) when injudiciously administered: but the only testimony produced to this point, prov-

ed that the patient found a cure from the medicine."

It is an evidence of the order and decorum of our courts of justice, that Thomson's friends did not shout aloud at this declaration of the Chief Justice. A more complete triumph they could not have anticipated. And here, we are of opinion, the Judge ought to have stopped; but he concluded his charge in these words:—

"It is to be exceedingly lamented that people are so easily persuaded to put confidence in these itinerant quacks, and to trust their lives to strangers without knowledge or experience: [T. was originally one of our native farmers, with a large family, and had practised the healing art between twenty and thirty years.] "If this astonishing insatiation should continue, and men are found to yield to the impudent pretensions of ignorant empiricism, there seems to be no adequate remedy by a criminal prosecution, without the interference of the Legislature."

And this interference was attempted by a member from Taunton, but the democracy of Massachusetts defeated the Anti-Quack bill, as I hope it ever may—Yet is the like object now in full chase in the State of New York, where the enlightened De Witt Clinton presides as Governor!

To add weight to the just mentioned extra judicial denunciation of an innocent man, the officious reporter tacks to it an ordinance of our ancestors in the year 1649. See p. 140.

Although the prosecution of Samuel Thompson added to his credit as a man, and reputation as a practitioner, yet the report, as printed in Tyng's collection, Vol. sixth, has been highly injurious to his character. Dr. Thatcher has quoted it in his *Dispensatory*; and Dr. Bigelow in his "*American Botany*," in aggravated terms, and repeats it in his "*Medical References*." These are serious injuries.

Thomson has borne all these wrongs for a series of years in silence, and in all probability would have continued silent, had he not been destined to run the gauntlet between two ministers of religion in Boston, with which we shall not intermeddle, because we have al-

ways observed that when any of that order stoop down to quarrel, there is very often an acrimony which even priestly pride seldom dilutes so as to render it safe for an ordinary to come near it.\* We shall only add here that Thomson, wishing to diffuse all he knew in his "novel practice," was desirous to obtain the assistance of some person of ability, character, and address, to assist him in preparing a book fit for the public eye, was recommended, he being a stranger in the capital, to the Rev. Elias Smith. Here, Thomson, who had set the law's "steel trap" at defiance, allowed himself to be duped beyond any thing we ever heard.

### AN ECLECTIC.

\*See "a statement of the conduct of Elias Smith towards Dr Samuel Thomson, printed by E. G. House—and the minutes and report of a council, signed by Hosea Ballou, moderator, printed by Henry Bowen—and a reply to that report, by a committee appointed for that purpose by the friendly Medical Botanic Society, printed by E. G. House, all in Boston."

### FOR THE RECORDER.

**MESSRS. EDITORS:—**As the religion of the Gospel is a dispensation of glad tidings to a wretched world, proclaiming, through the death and resurrection of the Christian Messiah, a complete antidote for all the moral disorders of the sons and daughters of Adam; the consideration of our highest interest should induce us to "seek first, the kingdom of God, and his righteousness." Next to the knowledge of salvation for our souls, is the knowledge of safe, certain, and efficient remedies for the disorders of our bodies. On medical subjects, speculation has succeeded speculation, theory has succeeded theory, and experiment has succeeded experiment, and disappointment has succeeded disappointment.—The visionary projects that have allured the world, have all failed to fulfil the hopes of system-makers. Promised remedies have failed, disease has prevailed against men's wisest and persevering efforts, and doctors and their disciples have been covered with des-

pair. Among all the classic volumes of our learned professors, no remedies can be found to compete with pestilence, and, with certainty, arrest and remove disease. They have never devised, agreed, and settled upon any system of medical practice adapted to an universal application. In relation to these facts, a vast proportion even of the learned world are wretchedly deceived.

It is more than probable that nine-tenths of the people imagine that our regular medical faculty are the men, who, by reading, hearing, dissecting, reflecting, and practical information, are really in possession of some established system, some definite and generally or universally received principles of medical practice. This system they suppose has stood the scrutiny of centuries, sustained, unshaken, a deserved reputation for truth and certainty, passed the ordeal of learned criticism, received a constant accession of light and evidence for its support, and now to doubt its correctness is to challenge the integrity of the good, abuse the understanding of the wise, trample on the profound researches of philosophy, and to run into new, vague, and hazardous inquiries. All these notions are but mistaken and bewildering dreams that lead the multitude astray. Those who have time and taste for reading medical works, and reflect carefully as they read, have no need to be informed, that among our classic regular faculty, there is no such uniform, correct, and immutable system in existence. The writings of the wisest and most learned of medical authors abound with inconsistencies and contradictions. In them we often meet with lamentations over the miserable imperfection of the present state of medical science. Every succeeding writer condemns the theories of all who have preceded him. This appears to me to be a true representation of the case. If we venture to say they are all wrong, we only say of them, what they are continually saying of each other. If we abandon them all, and refuse to follow them in their extravagant and conjectural wanderings, it is not forsaking any established system; it is not contradicting the general sense of mankind. We do not relinquish the use of medicines which

have been proved to possess specific efficacy for the removal of disease: we only leave behind us a jarring mass of disconnected and absurd speculations and nominal remedies, which it is often as hazardous to use as any form of disease is dangerous to endure. Death is frequently the result of mineral remedies. The natural tendency of many popular medicines, is the destruction of human life. Why is Castor Oil, or Epsome or Glauber Salts, so frequently given after a dose of Calomel? I answer, these purgatives are administered to sweep out and carry off the poison, to prevent the troublesome and dangerous consequences of the Calomel—to restrain its natural tendency, which is to destroy the patient.

The usual course pursued, is to give a portion of medicine by which the life of the patient may be presumed to be in danger; for two or three portions more are administered to prevent the first from killing him. The afflicted patient is compelled to starve, famish with thirst, and crowd the nauseating drugs upon his stomach, dose after dose, to protect his life from the destructive ravages of what was given at the commencement. If the doctor should be so fortunate as to control the deadly poison of one dose of medicine, by giving another equally dangerous, he must succeed far better than many do; and, if he fail, what is the alternative? Is there not danger that the patient will die? If a second medicine be given to counteract the effects or natural tendency of another, what was the first given for?

Just let us look at it one moment:—The life of the patient has been put in jeopardy by one dose of medicine; admit that its fatal termination has been prevented by another dose! what a great achievement!

In this way, we discover medicine is compelled to make war with medicine, and the combined, or rather conflicting doses make war with the human constitution. The constitution becomes a theatre of war—the battle ground where these belligerents meet in dreadful conflict, contending for pre-eminence. Disease takes advantage of the debilitated constitution, its energies decline, it cannot long sustain the conflict or

endure the burthen imposed upon it: it receives no medical assistance to enable it to endure the ravages of the destroyer; overpowered by poisons and exhausted by her own efforts, the patient sinks and dies. In such a case, who must not see that medicine, or poison, called medicine, and not disease, has overcome the powers of life?

To what a fearful dilemma is the world reduced! Behold what a confused state of things! What a mass of contradictory dogmas are palmed on the community! What a heterogeneous mixture of superstition, ignorance, and folly has acquired the reputation of being a regular system of medical practice!

It is this confusion, strife, and delusion of the learned world, we deprecate and deplore—It is this we propose to abandon. Many of the evils of this state of things we have seen and felt. We feel bound to raise a warning voice in the ears of our fellow men, let them receive it as they will. Men's unbelief and obstinacy, is no apology for our negligence, whom Providence has enlightened on the important subject.

We know the inquiry naturally arises, have you found the prize which has been sought for so long, and sought in vain? We answer explicitly *we have*. We have found kind nature's friendly restorative, in *her plants*, the gift of nature's God! Yes, Samuel Thomson, the student of nature, was led by her plastic hand, and impelled by long and pressing necessity, from point to point, until he was thoroughly initiated in the knowledge of her well-stored treasury of efficient remedies. Prompted by the benevolent feelings of a generous mind, he has spread them out before us. The popular faculty may sneer, the wise may frown, and the ignorant and presumptuous continue to swallow down poisons, we can rest undisturbed by all the busy strife and folly of the world.

Fever (or rather disease under the name of fever) yields to the powerful efficacy of these Thomsonian remedies: Cholera flies before them, swellings are discursed and resolved, pains decline, inflammations abate, obstructions give way, and health and vigor resume their wonted empire wherever they are promptly and faithfully applied, if the



powers of nature be not sunk too low to rise.

Under such circumstances, we know not of any instances of their failure.—We do not believe any instance of failure has ever occurred in the use of these means, where cause of the failure could not be unequivocally traced to a waste or exhaustion of the living power to an irrecoverable point, or to a failure on the part of the practitioner to be furnished with genuine medicine, to have them well prepared and faithfully administered.

We make no arrogant pretensions; we do not profess to be workers of miracles—we do not even aspire to be thought great and skillful in mineral remedies and the science of medicine, as taught in our classical schools. We renounce all the puffing quackish reveries, in which the faculty strive to excell each other. As Thomsonians, we cannot rationally aspire to rival one another. We have derived our knowledge from one common source. Dr. Thomson is our perceptor; his teaching is simple and plain. We have attended with deep attention on his instructions. Reader, wilt thou not go and do likewise. We have full confidence in his system of medical practice. If you will but investigate the subject thoroughly, and give the system the same fair impartial trial that we have, it will impress the same impressions on your minds as we now feel.

We consider our knowledge in this matter, the best earthly legacy we can leave to our children. All who know how rightly to appreciate its value, will think as we do. I will speak for myself. If I should have but twenty dollars to bestow upon a son of a daughter, who were about to marry, or go from beneath a paternal roof, to try their fortunes in the world, that twenty dollars should be couched in one of Dr. Samuel Thomson's family rights. All who have fairly tested the efficacy of his system, and know its worth, I think must give it the same preference.

While I thus give vent to my thoughts and expression of my feelings, should I be called an enthusiast, I reply, the enjoyment of health ranks among the greatest of all earthly blessings; that, therefore, which will prevent and cure disease, must be an invaluable heritage.

Thus I have laid before you the deliberate expression of my feelings, of the unshaken confidence of my mind, after about four years of constant practice on the Thomsonian system. At the commencement of my Thomsonian inquiries, I at first concluded to purchase a right, being half convinced of its utility, and half suspicious it might be a Yankee trick. I finally concluded that twenty dollars would be well laid out in the detection of so great a fraud, if a fraud I found it to be. I resolved, if it proved to be a fraudulent imposition on the community, I would use my utmost influence for its exposure & downfall; but, on the other hand, if I found it to be valuable, as it professed to be, I determined to use the same weight of influence for its support and propagation.

I have tried it. I have given it a fair trial. I am convinced of its utility. I have tried the Thomsonian remedies in all the various forms which disease assumes in our country, or nearly so. My house has often been like a hospital, with patients laboring under various forms of chronic disease. Many such have been brought from different and distant parts of the country, and boarded in my neighborhood, that I might attend them. I have been called in many desperate cases from upwards of sixty miles distance. Taking all these circumstances, together with a constant and daily practice about home, and a variety of cases which I have attended when travelling as a minister of the Gospel, I say, all these circumstances combined, have given me an opportunity to give the system a full and fair trial. By this independent, persevering, honest course, I have lost the friendship of some of my most intimate associates. I have shared bountifully in their slander, sarcasm, and ridicule. But, gentlemen, I assure you I possess an approving conscience. My success in relieving the afflicted, has buoyed me up. To these facts, which have been so multiplied, I make my appeal when called to face my opposers. They are compelled to confess the force of the argument. Having enjoyed such an extensive opportunity of testing the excellency of the system, I am willing that this memorial of its efficacy should

appear on the pages of the **RECORDER**, as the unsolicited testimony of your sincere friend, and the admirer of Dr. Thomson and his invaluable system.

**WILSON THOMSON.**

The following communication from our much esteemed correspondent, gives us cheering intelligence of the progress of Thomsonianism in Indiana, confirms the testimony of Dr. Nathan Hixson, and contains also a very concise but impressive exposure of the absurd and fatal practice of some of the regular Faculty, that ought to be deeply engraven on the memory of every intelligent judicious mind. The letter bears date

**LEBANON, JUNE 21, 1833.**

Messrs. Pike & Co:—Having just returned from Indiana, I hastily prepare this sheet for your perusal. I delivered a Lecture in the town of Connorsville, Indiana, treating extensively on the Thomsonian system; and, notwithstanding I spoke two hours, I had the closest attention of a respectable auditory, whose eyes and ears were open to receive information.

Dr. M——, who is said to be the most celebrated regular practitioner in that place, was in attendance. He had previously said, that “he would reply to me if his life should be spared to that time.” But, after all, he could not be prevailed on, by his friends or foes, to make any reply. Some of his medical brethren, who had travelled many miles to witness his eloquence and logical powers, returned that evening without hearing the Doctor say a word, (publicly,) in defence of their tottering schemes. The people must have drawn their own inferences. If he was not timorous to engage in the contest, to say the least, it had something of that appearance. The people, I believe, were under that impression. I proceeded to appoint some few agents in different parts, sold some rights, attended some cases with success, and returned home convinced that the good cause was looking upward in Indiana. I have seen a letter from Mrs. D. Arms, of the city of

Maysville, Ky., of recent date, addressed to her twin sister, Mrs. N. Wiles, of Lebanon, Ohio. She gives an account of the ravages of Cholera in that city, and of the remarkable success of the Thomsonian remedies, in preventing and curing that destructive malady. By the indulgence of this friendly sister, I have made the following extract from this very interesting letter, and promptly forward it to you.

“MAYSVILLE, JUNE 8, 1833.

“My Dear Sister:—Believing that you must feel great concern for us at this time of general distress, I feel it to be a duty incumbent on me, (as the Lord has spared my life,) to drop you a few lines and let you know our situation for the last four or five days. You must have heard some sad accounts before this time. The times have been awfully indeed. However, since my return there has not been more than five deaths.

“Those who have died are colored persons, except one, who was a boy of seven years old. We have more or less cases occurring every day.

“Brother Hixson, [a brother in the Church, who also is a brother of the Friendly Botanic Fraternity,] is doing wonders with the steam medicines. He has not lost more than three who were his patients. Two of them appear to have been lost for want of good nursing; the other was in a collapsed state before the family discovered there was any thing particularly the matter with him. When the family found out his situation it was too late. He lived only three hours and a quarter after the family knew that he was sick. I think I may say, safely, that brother Hixson has administered means to at least one hundred people, besides what he has done with prescriptions and medicine, for miles and miles round the country for twenty or thirty miles at least. He makes what is called his Cholera Preventative, six or seven gallons at a time, sometimes twice in the course of one day. This, when taken in due time, the patient getting warm into bed, with warm dry bricks to his feet and placed around him, has relieved a great many. There are also many who have been relieved, in this way, after they have been seized with the spasms. I have no

heard of one of the faculty being called upon since my return. In fact, there are none of them in the city, except it be Dr. Nelson. He brought his family back a day or two since. It is said that Dr. C. will not return to reside here any longer; that he intends purchasing a farm, and living in the country the rest of his days. For one, I think it would be a very good thing if they would all come to the same conclusion. I think they will never be of much more account in this city.—The citizens have lost all confidence in them.”

The reader will please to notice that the above letter was written on Saturday. The writer was attacked with Cholera before she had time to finish it. On the Monday following, her mother, Mrs. Sarah Corwine, closed the letter as follows:—

“ You see Deborah began this letter on Saturday—it is now Monday. On Saturday, in the afternoon, she had an attack of the Cholera—she is now mending, and able to be up part of the time. We have still some cases every day in this place.”

I have obtained permission of the lady, Mrs. Wiles, to whom the above letter was written, to forward the preceding *extract* for the Recorder. From my own knowledge of the reputation of the writer, its contents may be confided in. She is a lady of the first respectability.

Now, gentlemen, allow me to express my full conviction that if it would save the world from sinking, and all the learned doctors from begging their bread, they can never present evidence of such a complete triumph over Cholera, at any place. All their high-toned pretensions cannot avail in this matter. In the preceding account there is nothing of the boastful puffing of some enthusiastical steam-doctor. No, sirs, it is the candid, unvarnished story, the honest breathings of Mrs. Arms, when surrounded with a pestilential cloud of Cholera, to her twin-sister, without any the most distant idea that her narration would ever be spread before the public.

Having given the preceding detail relative to the Thomsonian practice, I will now proceed to give some account

of the progress and prospects of the opposition practice. The town of H\*\*\*, in B\*\*\* county, contains a number of high-starched regular doctors. They spend much of their breath in ridiculing steam-doctors. If they cannot find any reproachful truth to say about them, it appears no great impediment; they are never at a loss on that account.

Two of them think themselves elevated a little above the rest. They seem to think that, by the breath of their lips, they can raise a tornado sufficient to sweep all the STEAMERS on the continent to oblivion. Or, perhaps, they think to put some charm or spell upon the people, and to prevent even freedom of thought. But, sir, they are sinking their own ships by the very storms they are raising and blowing out of their mouths to assail the innocent.

As I came through said town the other day, I saw a concourse of people. It was natural to enquire what had brought the concourse together. I was informed that a man had died the day before—that his daughter had grieved much at her loss. Dr. H\*\*\* had said she had the cholic—SHE said, she had not. HE said she had, and she must take laudanum. SHE said, there was not any thing the matter with her, except the loss of her father, and that she did not need any medicine. HE insisted that she had the cholic, and must take some laudanum. HE gave her a dose. Its effects were soon visible. HE could not control its deleterious influence, and so he left her. Several other doctors were called upon; they came in haste; the stomach-pump was soon put in operation; but it was all in vain; in a few hours she died. One funeral procession conveyed the daughter to the grave, with the deceased father, whose death she had so much deplored.

Thus we see what laudanum can do, when given by a learned, regular doctor. Would the effects have been better or worse, if the same dose had been given by a madman or a fool?

Another Dr. H\*\*\*, probably a cousin to the learned laudanum doctor above named, I am very creditably informed, was called upon, not long since, to visit a young lady, who, from expo-

sure at an improper time, was taken ill. Her complaint, it appears, was accompanied with an obstruction common to females in such cases. The doctor, accordingly, as is customary, gave her a dose of CALOMEL, but it did not operate. Baffled in this first attempt, he gave her more. Disappointed in its effects, he repeated the dose again! She died in a short time. An operation was never obtained. The people believe that this so-much-cried-up cure-all medicine must have been the occasion of her death. It is highly probable that, by this time, the doctor thinks so too.

Another regular doctor visited a lady in child-bed—probably she had an attack of milk-fever—he *bled her*!—she died in a few minutes. So the learned faculty go on! These are the wise, skillful, tender-hearted men, who travel round and peddle out falsehood and slander against the Thomsonians. All this is practised for the good of the people, to prevent them from being duped, and to guard their lives against the disastrous and deadly effects of *steam* and No. 6.

I want more Books and Rights immediately, and a recruit of good medicine. The call is great. Do not fail to forward me a supply as soon as possible.

Yours, respectfully, &c.

WILSON THOMSON.

*Pendleton County, Kentucky,  
June 10, 1833.*

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I have for some time been desirous of communicating to you some particulars with regard to the success of the Thomsonian System of Practice in this section of country, but have hitherto been deterred from my intention, on account of my inability to do the subject justice. But, notwithstanding I make no pretension to classical skill, I will at least indulge my feelings a few moments, in relation to a few facts, which, if you think worthy of notice, you are at liberty to place on the pages of your excellent Recorder.

Prior to the 1st of October last, the name of Thomson was barely known here, and the appellation of Steam Doctor hardly mentioned, except by way of ridicule, in consequence of the many

lives they were said to sacrifice at the shrine of their unaccountable obstinacy and ignorance. At the present time, the prospect is of the most flattering character. Our citizens have, by experience, become convinced of the superiority of the Thomsonian remedies, not only in one, but in every disease incident to the climate.

The first case treated in this neighborhood by a Thomsonian, was a case of Cholera, and was treated by myself. On visiting my patient the first time, I found him already collapsed, his family in terror, and himself in despair, declaring that it was too late to effect a cure. But, notwithstanding I had to labor under every discouragement incident to the season of the year, as well as a want of proper assistance, and the house being in a bad situation and an unfinished state, composed of green timber, and the damp air driving through every crevice, (of which there was a scarcity either in the floor or walls, I was able to give some relief in about two hours after my arrival. I ~~was~~ however, found that the relief he had obtained was only temporary: and, in spite of every exertion, he died the next day. This circumstance, however discouraging it might seem to a young practitioner, did not at all lessen my confidence in the medicine: and, notwithstanding I was compelled to feel my own weakness, as well as to feel the weakness of others—I yet experience a glow of satisfaction on recollecting that the dying man testified to the efficacy of the medicines in his last moments, declaring, in terms of the utmost confidence, that the same assistance, had it been timely given, would have rendered him permanent relief.

How far his judgment may or may not have been correct, we shall not now take the liberty to decide. But, considering the embarrassments under which we labored, we think experience has sufficiently demonstrated that his death is not to be regarded as a matter of surprise, the opinion of some of the Faculty to the contrary notwithstanding.

On an examination of my list, I find that the number I have attended since the above occurrence, is 48, besides those to whom I have given medicines

and directions to treat themselves, which, on a moderate calculation, I think, would amount to double that number. Among those whom I have attended in person, I find that seven were afflicted with the Cholera, twelve with dyspepsia, five with diseases of the lungs, two with pleurisy, three with scarlatina, one with numb palsy, and one poisoned, having drunk, as was supposed, some poisonous substance in a cup of milk. Of the whole number, I have been so far successful as to relieve all except three, (they having refused to use the medicines,) and have lost none besides those. Of the remainder, some were afflicted with fevers, cholics, and various other forms of disease incident to the climate.

But, notwithstanding the success that has attended our practice, the Faculty in the neighborhood have not failed to manifest their utter disapprobation of ourselves and the system.—They are, by every means in their power, endeavoring to pluck us up by the roots. But, thus far, we have been able to cope with them; and, what is more encouraging, our citizens are bursting the shackles of medical tyranny on every hand. Two or three have bought the right, and many more would purchase if they were to be had. I have almost daily calls for information on the subject. The Faculty, as I said before, are in the constant habit of endeavoring to degrade us: but to give you an idea how far their influence extends at the present time, I would say I know of but one case in this neighborhood, in which a medical doctor has been called on for about three months past; if they have been, it has escaped my knowledge.

So far as we have been able to ascertain, we believe that the old story of boiling to death having become too stale, another plan has been hit upon in order to degrade the new sect.

If we have been correctly informed, a certain would-be wise man in botanic concerns, by the name of Dr. E. N—, of Felicity, not long since, entered upon a course of experiments; the result of which is said to be, "that every drop of blood may be extracted from the system by the use of steam." For our own part, being neither an anatomist nor yet

a profound chemist, we shall take no pains to deny the result of his valuable researches; but, by way of notice, we would just observe that, if his veracity is as worthy of confidence in the present instance, as in relation to the success of Drs. Tibbotts & Talbott, of Cincinnati, in the Cholera, we do not very ardently desire any share of the credit of so valuable a discovery. Query—Was it by a similar course of experiments, that he became dissatisfied with the mineral practice, which resulted in the purchase of a right from a Thomsonian practitioner? or did his ill success dictate such a course? We shall dispense with any further comments until circumstances shall seem to make it necessary to produce proper evidence on the subject.

As to Mr. H—'s "New Views," &c., we are not much troubled with them. I know of but one who has bought the right, and he told me himself that he had never taken the pains to prepare the medicines—those of Thomson being sufficient for his use. I also know of one who patronizes the E\*\*\*\*\*, and he assured me he should dispense with it at the end of the present year.

In conclusion, I would observe that, after having tested the efficacy of Thomson's remedies, in multiplied instances, I feel it my duty to recommend it to others. In the numerous cases in which I have prescribed or administered, I have never yet had to endure that shameful mortification spoken of in medical works, viz. of seeing my patient sink by the very means employed to raise him up." So long as this is the case, I deem it my duty still to advocate the cause of humanity. Let me but have the honor of contributing but a small share to the general stock of human happiness, and it shall render a satisfaction that shall sweeten every ill of life "and cheer my latest hour."

Yours, with respect,

J. MILLER.

*Kenshaw District, S. C.*

*May 14, 1833.*

Messrs. Editors:—With pleasure I acknowledge the reception of the Thomsonian Recorder, with the perusal of which I have been particularly interest-



where it has had any thing like a trial, it has demonstrated its great superiority over the mineral plan.

I will here relate a case of a young man who was taken with what is called a bilious fever. I was called to attend him. It was late in the afternoon of a Thursday evening, about the last of September. When I arrived at the house, I found him in a high state of fever. I administered some of the best cooling medicine, and, as soon as circumstances would admit, I steamed and puked and washed, as the New Gazette had directed. The next day I called to see him. He was able to be up and walk about, and was quite sociable. On Saturday morning he was still better, but, unfortunately for him, he walked from the dwelling-house to the kitchen while it was raining, not having on either hat or shoes. The consequence was, he relapsed; I was sent for in haste and informed that he was thought to be dying. I arrived at the house as early as I could, and found him quite delirious. Many of the friends were called in to see him die, who said to me that it was a hopeless case. I persevered from 11 o'clock A. M. till about 4 o'clock P. M. At that time the delirium subsided, and he was entirely clear of fever. Sunday he was up, and had no fever—Monday he had a slight return of fever, but it was very light and of short duration. Tuesday, there was not any symptom of fever. I left positive instructions with the family to pay strict attention, to give the medicine agreeably to directions. Through neglect, after he went to bed and got into a proper perspiration, he threw off the bed covering, by which means the perspiration was checked, and he relapsed again. I was called upon, but, having other engagements that could not be dispensed with, I was compelled to decline attending him, but recommended to the young man's brother the calling in of another steam-doctor. Whether they did send or not, I am unable to decide; but this I do know, that Dr. M. of the old school, was called in. I was informed that, when he arrived there, he found his bowels very loose, or, as he expressed himself afterwards, "the bile was running from him like a branch." He poured down laudanum,

Sometime in the autumn of 1823, my wife was taken with a severe cold, attended with a constant hacking troublesome cough. Recourse was had to the Doctors of the old school. Their prescriptions were adhered to very strictly. Towards the opening of the ensuing spring, the cough, which had somewhat abated, returned upon her with redoubled fury. We continued following their prescriptions, the cough alternately abating and returning, until she was reduced to a mere skeleton.— Her appetite was much depraved. The digestive powers of her stomach appeared to be almost destroyed. To have remained in this situation, she could not have survived long. Fortunately for us, we had heard of the success of the Rev. Dr. Carlisle. At her earnest request, I wrote him a pressing letter, stating her situation. On the receipt of my letter, he came over immediately and put her through a Thomsonian course of medicine. This occurred in the spring of 1832. I then purchased a right, and continued to pursue the Thomsonian plan. We cannot say that all remains of disease has been perfectly removed; she is tolerably comfortable, and her general health is very much improved. When I first purchased a right, there was much speculation and a general demur against the learned Faculty. These unpleasant effects, and the causes by which they had been produced, were too obvious to escape general observation. The consequence of the whole business was, that the system gained some warm advocates. A number have purchased family rights, and, in every instance,

locked up his bowels, put on him six blisters, and gave him a large portion of Calomel and Gamboge; but, lamentable to tell, it appeared the bowels were bolted so fast with the laudanum, that no passage could afterwards be obtained. On the Saturday night after Dr. M. was called in, his throat and jaws began to swell. Sunday, he swallowed with difficulty, and on Monday expired. After all this, the reputable Doctor has had the impertinence to say, that the Cayenne and Lobelia salivated him. From the whole, you may discover that we here meet with opposition. If you think my communication worthy, you are at liberty to insert it in the Recorder.

E. L. FRASER.

A gentleman of unquestionable integrity has addressed us by letter, dated St. Louis, June 18, 1833, from which we have taken the liberty to make the following extracts:—

“The Cholera has visited our city once more. I have attended upwards of fifty cases in the spasmodic stages of genuine Cholera, and perhaps over one hundred cases having premouitory symptoms, and these have all recovered.

“Besides these, I visited three other cases—the patients were in a collapsed stage of the disease. I pronounced them to be dying at first sight—All that was attempted to be done for them, was just to perform the office of humanity; not to administer medicine with the least expectation of effecting a cure.

“The Faculty here have shifted round from one thing to another, until it has become somewhat difficult to determine what it is that remains untried by them, except the right treatment. Dr. C. has made, he thinks, a valuable discovery, by cupping over the spine its full length. I witnessed a case two days since, in which eight tumblers were applied over the spine; he said it was to quiet the nerves.

“One thing I discovered in the case very plainly; the cupping served to drain down the precious stream of life, depriving the man of all that could possibly maintain its fluidity and sustain circulation, leaving a sluggish, thick,

inactive mass behind. We must not forget to mention Calomel (*the Samson of Dr. Rush*,) had been previously administered. Mark well the issue! While the regular Calomel Doctor was boasting of his discovery, the patient continued to die; and \*\*\*\* is dead! You see the importance of these new discoveries! I was attending two cases; one in the same room, and another in the room adjoining. One had been three days convalescent and is now well. The other was taken down the same day—the calomelized patient died. Both my patients are well.—The man referred to, who was bled and took Calomel, was unloading his boat at 8 o'clock A. M., went to a regular Doctor about 9 o'clock A. M., cramped at 11 A. M., and was dead at 9 o'clock P. M. So much for discoveries and trying experiments. The man lay uncovered—no warming applications were made, no frictions were used. In the forming stage, no stimulants were given. I proposed stimulating—the doctor objected—the patient died! My practice, at this time, in Cholera, [adds our esteemed correspondent,] stands above all opposition. I think, if I am not greatly mistaken, I have nearly one half of the Cholera cases in our city, leaving the other prejudiced half in the hands of about sixteen practising physicians. The fact is, as nearly as I can possibly ascertain, nearly or quite one-half, who are attended by the Regular Faculty, never recover! They are no more seen among the living!

“Would to God the inconsistencies, superstitions, and prejudices of the Regular Faculty would decrease with their patients! J. L. C.”

### THOMSONIAN DISCOVERIES.

“There is nothing in the history of quackery, to be at all compared to Thomson's discoveries. Every thing in his Narrative carries with it the face and air of an honest man, acting for the good of his country, and desirous, like other men, to live by that honest industry or profession of a new system of curing disease—a profession which, if it shall be found, on a universal trial, to be as beneficial as its high and early promise has inspired, his country never can repay, nor the world calculate the price.”—*Robertson's Lectures.*

**THE RECORDER.****COLUMBUS,**

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1833.

**TO OUR READERS.**

In examining the preceding communication from our intelligent, enterprising and successful friend, we cannot forbear to rejoice with those who are returning from the gates of death. Who among the advocates of calomel, opium, and the lancet, can boast of equal success? Yet such is the pride of men's hearts, they will risk their lives, and even die, the dupes of learned superstition. Wherever the Thomsonian practice has been faithfully attended to, the success has been astonishingly uniform! In this the faculty discover that they must either confess that Doctor Thomson has rivalled all the skill of all the schools of Physic, and assign him the meed of deserved praise, or they must make the unreasonable, inhuman, and desperate attempt to put him down. They have a laborious task to swim against the stream of truth. Testimony in favor of the Thomsonian System, accumulates so fast, through the most populous and respected sections of our country, that it cannot fail ultimately to put down opposition in its most tremendous forms. The gentlemen who have recently informed us of their conversion to Thomsonianism, must feel their faith surprisingly confirmed! We congratulate them most cordially on their happy emancipation; more especially at this momentous crisis, when thousands of lives are at stake. May they never be induced to abandon truth, to secure the smiles or escape the frowns of eminent physicians and popular professors, or their friends. Do not join with those partial, stupid parasites, who, by

barefaced falsehood and willful misrepresentation, are perverting, abusing and traducing the system. Appeal to plain matter of fact, and, when it contradicts you, 'pity their folly. Rebuke with candor and firmness the blindness, madness, and malevolence of such, as through envy and malice propose themselves, setting all testimony at defiance that contradicts their silly superstition. What reformatory improvement can be made in the medical practice of our botanic brethren. We hail his success, at this period, constituting an important era in the section of country, and rejoicing that, while the Faculty are "trying things," he "hold fast that which is good."

A respectable correspondent of Charleston, S. C., under date of June 1833, gives us a very flattering account of the progress of Thomsonianism in that section of the country. The effects that have been produced by the use of the Thomsonian medicine, appears to have advanced its reputation among the people. He gives an interesting account of its salutary effects in a severe case of asthma that came under his care. He mentions an instance of a young man from Marion District, afflicted 14 years. He had abstained from flesh of every kind for months, on account of a cholera that attended him. He was dyspeptic and going rapidly into a dropsical state. He had been busy in the use of means, having, as he said, "tried every thing." He stayed with us, says our informant, ten days. After a second course of medicine, he used flesh of every kind, and nothing appeared to disagree with the condition of his stomach. As one evidence that his patient must have been well satisfied, we are told that, when he returned home, he purchased a Roast. He concludes by saying, "I think the time is not far distant when people will learn what is for their own interest."

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense."

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## THE ECLECTIC—No. VII.

Being a discussion of AMERICAN rights and privileges, as it regards the PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, and the rights of discovery: By B. WATERHOUSE, M. D. Professor of theory and practice of Physic, and Lecturer on Natural History in the University at Cambridge, Mass.

"Worry'd by rogues and past all hopes of bail,  
"The un pity'd wretch lies rotting in a jail."  
[Lord Roscommon.

"I am no lawyer by profession, nor do I pretend to be more deeply read than every 'American' gentleman should be in the laws of his country. I speak to the plain understanding of the people and appeal to their honest, liberal construction of me."

JUNIUS.

The trial of Samuel Thomson for the wilful murder of Ezra Lovett, Jr., has been deemed of sufficient importance to be reported, and that too by a "highly respected friend" of the regular and legal reporter; and, thus given to the public, is a fair subject for free remark through the medium of the press.

Why a citizen of a fair moral character, was thrown into a condemned cell, manifestly unhealthy, and shockingly offensive, with a culprit sentenced to solitary confinement, and fed with articles unwholesome in quality and deficient in quantity, is a serious question for those to answer to whom the "safe-keeping" of a prisoner is committed before trial.

How he came thus very rigorously confined and treated, is another very serious question in this enlightened country of equal liberty and laws. Why was not Thomson admitted to bail after his strange indictment? seeing the circumstances of his case were known, for he kept the same ground, and pursued the same practice full a year after the alleged murder. It has been said he could not be bailed because indicted for

murder; but that opinion may be controverted. Whoever is conversant with the history of England and of English America, and has a general idea of that jurisprudence which reigns in both countries, must know that the laws have provided for the immediate enlargement of persons arrested on "light suspicion." By the ancient common law, all felonies were bailable, until murder was excepted by statute, particularly by that of Westminster, and that of the 31st of Charles 2d, commonly called the habeas corpus act, which taken together, completes the security of the subject, or citizen, and renders clear the doctrine of delivery, bailing, or remanding the prisoner. While the law wisely provided against that unlimited power of replevy of ancient times, it left much to the discretion of the judge for any alleged crime whatever, when the circumstances of the case seem to require it. But it was not left to the humane feelings or partiality of the justice, or to what may be called ordinary or common sense discretion, but, *discernere per legem quid sic justem*.

In Thomson's case the circumstances were not common, but peculiar. He was not complained of until a year after the alleged crime, and he maintained the same theatre of action in spite of efforts to drive him away by envious practitioners. It should be noted, also, that the prosecutor or complainant was not the father of Ezra Lovett, nor any relation or connexion, but a rival practitioner, notorious for his enmity to the accused, who had narrowed very materially his circle of business, and whose success had worked up the village doctor's rage to dire resentment. Again, the very nature of the allegations must have convinced any man acquainted with our criminal laws, that an indictment for wilful murder, which includes malice aforethought, could never be sustained in the case of Thomson; for

let a "quack" be ever so ignorant, his strong wish and intention must be to benefit his patient, and save his life, and to quote him as a living witness of his skill; in a word, to save him by all means for the sake of his own reputation and pecuniary advantage. Well might Chief Justice Parsons ask the Solicitor General, in a tone of surprise, What sort of men had you for a Grand Jury, who could find a bill on such evidence? And the public may ask, what sort of a man had you for a Judge, who would refuse to bail a man indicted on such slight suspicion, and on an accusation which, if proved, could not convict the physician of crime. "If a physician, says Lord Hale, whether licensed or not, gives a person a potion, without any intent of doing him any bodily harm, but with intent to cure him, or prevent disease, and, contrary to the expectation of the physician, it kills him, he is not guilty of murder or manslaughter."—(1 Hale, J. C. 439.)—And what is entirely to our purpose, Judge Parsons himself told the Jury, in this very case of Samuel Thomson, that, "to constitute the crime of murder, with which the prisoner is charged, the killing must have been with malice, either express or implied. There was no evidence to induce a belief that the prisoner, (Thomson,) by his treatment, intended to kill or injure the deceased, (Lovett)—on the contrary, it appears that his intention was to cure him. To constitute (even) manslaughter, the killing must have been the consequence of some unlawful act. Now there is no law which prohibits any man from prescribing for a sick person with his consent, if he honestly intends to cure him by his prescription. And it is not felony, if, through his ignorance of the quality of the medicine prescribed, or of the nature of the disease, or of both, the patient, contrary to his expectations, should die." [See Tyng's Reports, volume sixth, from p. 134, to 142.]

Taking all the circumstances, and these well known principles of law into consideration, why was not Thomson admitted to bail? We do not mean that species of bail termed "main-prize," but that special bail, commonly enjoyed by imprisoned debtors, in-

stead of a most noisome lousy dungeon. The repeated applications made to the Chief Justice, especially by a friend of the prisoner, who was actually himself a Judge of the Common Pleas must have informed the quick-thoughted, keen-sighted Judge Parsons of the peculiar circumstances of the poor democrat's case. How are we to account for this unfeeling neglect of a shrewd and useful man, of the class of our respectable yeomanry, the father of a large family, the cultivator and owner of a fine productive farm? Some have said it was on account of the republican or democratic principles and conversation of the accused. But it could not be the whole cause, if part of it. Leaving conjecture, let us state facts. Thomson and his Labret flourished from between the year 1800 and the time of his indictment and trial, which was in 1809, and his theatre of action was the county of Essex, and that part of New Hampshire which borders on it. It was remarked by those of the Jury whom he challenged were all federalists; and it was known that priest-craft, as well as doctor-craft were butts of his ridicule; and of his printed addresses to the public begins by saying, that there were three things which have, in a greater or less degree, called forth the attention of mankind, viz: Religion, Government, and Medicine; that these were once thought by millions to belong exclusively to three classes of men; that the priests brought people to their own terms, by keeping the Scriptures locked up in a dead language; but that those dark days are past, or passing away, and that now each one reads the Scriptures and judges for himself; and that government once considered as belonging to a few—to men born only to rule, was now no longer "the grand secret," but each one, amongst us, at least, know that all men are born equal, and that magistrates are put into authority, and put out, by the vote of the people, while Medicine still lies concealed under the lumber of words and mystical nonsense; so that a sick man is often obliged to risk his life where he would not risk a dollar, and what with a very young and unexperienced doctor, the apothecary and.



the apothecary's apprentice, he too often receives an instrument of death instead of a remedy; and that so long as fashion measured a man's understanding and ability to benefit his fellow-creatures by acquisitions in literature, from books made by erring man, instead of studying the book of nature, we should go on blundering to the end of the chapter: In a word, he impugned law, physic, and divinity, and, thereby, excited the *odium theologicum*, the *odium medicum*, and the *odium politicum*. He was called to encounter "evil days and evil tongues, in darkness compass'd round and solitude."—In plainer terms, he lived and acted in times when character no longer depended on the tenor of a man's life and actions, but was entirely determined by the part he had taken. To a man who to the imputed knavery of empiricism, added the sin of republicanism, those were terrific times. In those days a corrosive spirit spread abroad tinging all three of the professions. Its breath was felt from the pulpit, from the bar, and sometimes from the bench, nor was it excluded from the chambers of the sick. If it did not show its malignity on the indictment, arrest, imprisonment and trial of Thomson, it certainly did on the report of it. When speaking of his novel practice, the reporter says—"He (Thomson) came and ordered a large fire to be kindled to heat the room. He then placed the feet of the deceased, with his shoes off, on a stove of hot coals, and wrapt him in a thick blanket, covering his head." What a horrible idea of his practice does this convey! and how reprehensible the man who should thus misrepresent it! From this and similar exaggerations, may have risen the stories spread about the country, that Dr. Thomson roasted young children like pigs, to obtain their fat for his incantations or remedies.

Here we see a benevolent man, endowed by nature with powers of mind, full equal, in my opinion, to those of the reporter, brought to trial for murder, and promptly acquitted on the very evidence adduced for the prosecution, without any opportunity afforded him of uttering a word in his own defence! As the Chief Justice knew that there was

neither law nor evidence to criminate the prisoner at the bar, why give him so many back-handed strokes in the course of his charge? Why hint at legislative interference to make a law on purpose, and that unconstitutional, and against our own bill of rights? That part of his charge amounted in effect to this—You see, gentlemen of the jury, this democratical practitioner cannot be restrained from, now and then, disgracing our own made regular M. D.'s either by the common or statute law; and there is no way to crush him unless you get the General Court to make one on purpose for him, and such like "impudent" and "ignorant empirics;" and the learned Judge tuck into his report, by way of marginal note, an ordinance of our forefathers, by way of precedent.

O, how have people, in this most enlightened of all countries in the world, been blinded and led away by fashion and rank prejudice, from the days of the Salem witchcraft to the downfall of our own Essex Juntoism! Should any one have said the learned Dr. Thomson, and the ignorant Judge Parsons, how would some folks have stared and frowned! And yet let us bring things to the test, and cease our wonder. The Chief Justice told the Jury that Lovett lost his life by swallowing repeated doses of "Indian Tobacco," for so he ignorantly calls the Lobelia or emetic weed; and both Thatcher and Bigelow have made the same blunder, besides pronouncing it an annual instead of a biennial plant. Let us hear what the "ignorant" and "impudent" empiric himself has to say on this serious subject.

In page 210 of S. Thomson's *Materia Medica*, for so it ought to be denominated, he says—"This herb is described in Thatcher's Dispensatory under the names of Lobelia Inflata, Lobelia Emetica, Emetic Weed, and Indian Tobacco, and several other names have been given to it, some by way of ridicule, and others for the purpose of creating a prejudice against it. Why it has had the name of Indian Tobacco, I know not. There is a plant by that name which grows in this country; but it is entirely different from this herb (Lobelia) both in appearance and medi-

cal virtues;" and he adds, "in the United States' Pharmacopeia there are directions for preparing the tincture of Indian Tobacco, meaning Lobelia."—This is a cruel cut from the pen of an "ignorant" quack into that lean production, dignified by the high-sounding title of the United States' Pharmacopeia! If people will run upon snags in the dark, how can we help it, but by giving these occasional warnings.

Until the summer, we shall not venture to give the systematical description and synonymes of the plant called by some the Indian Tobacco; and shall only remark at present, that it resembles some of the smaller varieties of the *nicotiana tabacum*. Our country people call it the itch plant; because it is often made use of, in the form of decoction, to cure the itch. It puckers the skin, and, if the decoction be too strong, or the skin very delicate, it is apt to excoriate it. The country people steep corn in it, with which they poison crows, and sometimes squirrels. It so stupifies these animals before death, that you may take them up in your hands. Now I do not believe that the Empiric Thomson would give a tea-spoonful of the powder of the Indian Tobacco to his worst enemy.

What a blessed privilege is the freedom of the press, when conducted with decorum, through the medium of a newspaper! But for this, what a snarl of ignorance and oppression, as in the case before us, would have remained entangled in so many hard knots of ignorance, prejudice, and local party politics, and these perpetuated and confirmed by books presuming to be elementary works. May we not hope that these, our rapidly written essays, in favor of common sense, fair play, and native genius, may induce a revision of some of the imposing productions of the day. The United States' Pharmacopeia is too young and tender for such handling. It is, I like to have said, an abortion, by which I mean something that has come into the world before its time, an immature gestation. Time and patience will correct this. But what shall we say to our new Dispensatory? Nothing deserves more compassion than wrong conduct with good meaning. If Dr. Thatcher would

put his volume into a tolerable fine size, and reduce it one-quarter or one-third, leaving out special references to local, and as much as may be, living authority, his compilation would be more respectable and useful. We seriously advise that worthy gentleman to a revision of the article of Lobelia, and that he have recourse to experienced physicians rather than learned divines, on articles of the *Materia Medica*. His article on Arsenic, may be made less exceptionable and more consistent with that just mentioned. The very best books in the medical art are to be found among the smallest. What shall we say of the "American Medical Botany," where Thomson's Emetic Weed is imperfectly described, and to which is added something very like a libel against that "irregular" practitioner. Thompson is an eccentric man, of character truly original, and of copious anecdote. Many stories are related of him, some true and some false; to ~~which~~ class the following belongs, we are enabled to say. It is related that when Dr. T. was shewn the XIX plate in the American Medical Botany, and was asked if he knew the plant? after viewing it a few moments, he said yes.—The artist meant to represent my favorite Lobelia; but, said he, it makes me think of the three wooden images in the front of Timothy Dexter's house in Newburyport; every spectator knows that they were cut out and painted to represent men, but no one could have guessed that one was intended to represent Washington, the other Jefferson, and the third Adams.

With what different eyes do differently instructed men view the same natural object! Where one sees a weed, another sees a wonderful organized being, resembling in every part an animal, both in its form and in its economy, constituting a link in that astonishing chain of beings, rising gradually and insensibly, from the senseless clod, through all the varieties of shapes, shades, powers and faculties, up to the highest genius of human kind. There are diversities of gifts, as well as tastes, and that consideration should induce us to bear and forbear with one another, as far as the mental powers are concerned when honestly exercised.

AN ECLECTIC.

**P. S.**—In the last of our numbers something was hinted as if the hero of them had been miserably duped by a treacherous friend. From what we can gather from the publications, and we make no assertions beyond them, we learn that Thomson, led by his opinion of the talents, learning, and sanctimony of the Rev. Elias Smith, put his manuscript into his hands, containing a narrative of his life—his *Materia Medica*, and every valuable particular of his new mode of practice, for Smith to arrange it and express it in language fit for the public eye, and general and diffusive usefulness. It appears that Smith engaged to do this for forty cents a page; but instead of accomplishing it, he laid himself out for practising on Thomson's discoveries, and which he contended were improvements. The perceptor was unwearied in teaching his scribe all that he knew, as they lived together, and this the latter contrived to drag on four years! and at length the book came out; but, in the place of bearing the name of S. Thomson, Botanist, it bore the name of Elias Smith, Physician! and, what was still more audacious, Smith took out the copy right in his own name.—The whole transaction is already in two or three pamphlets. As far as Thomson's facts go, it is respectable, but beyond them, Smith's *Medical Pocket-Book* is, perhaps, the most contemptible publication relative to physic, that ever issued from the press in any country, and yet a great many have been sold to the disgrace and manifest injury of the honest, liberal-minded Thomson. Let those who have extenuated and even vindicated M. S., turn these things over in their minds before they are one month older.

### TOWN'S LECTURES.

#### *Lecture 2—On the Thomsonian System of Practice.*

In my first Lecture an attempt was made to illustrate the principles upon which Dr. Thomson has founded his system of practice; and I confined myself more particularly to the theory of his system, with an honest endeavor to give a correct view of what he has founded his opinions and conclusions

upon, with some remarks on the nature and cause of disease. I shall now proceed to give a more particular description of the various means by which in his experience by long practice, and indefatigable research into the great book of nature, he found best calculated to remove the cause of disease, and restore his patients to health, with the greatest safety to the constitution. He ascertained, by experiments, first on himself, and then on others, that there was nothing which could be depended upon, with any degree of certainty, except such medicines as would, by their stimulating effects, increase the vital heat and restore the digesture; so that the stomach, by digesting the food taken into it, would nourish and invigorate the system, and cause nature to resume its complete control.

In most cases, in the first stages of disease, the health may be restored by very simple means, and in a short time; but, in the more violent attacks, it may be the fact, that the natural powers of the vital heat become so much diminished by a suspension of those causes by which the great functions of life are maintained, that there will be found a difficulty in increasing the heat in the stomach by stimulating medicine, sufficient to resist the effects of the cold air that constantly surrounds the body. And this will also be the fact in all those chronic cases where the stomach has become so weak, and the digestive powers so completely prostrate, that it may not be in the power of medicine to produce the desired effect.

To obviate this difficulty, and to aid in giving the greatest possible effect to the power of inward heat, Dr. Thomson, by his experiments, in which he was always looking into natural causes and effects, to guide him in his practice, hit upon the plan of applying Steam to lighten the external air and open the pores; by which the most decayed vital spark is re-kindled, and nature left to carry on in freedom and harmony all its functions, to maintain the great principles of life. This is what the doctor calls, in his peculiar way of communicating his ideas, *raising the fountain and lowering the streams*, which tends to remove all obstructions and causes the current to run free and clear.

After becoming well satisfied, by repeated trials, that the application of steam to remove obstructions and restore health, was safe and had the desired effect, he introduced it in his practice, in the most simple form, by making use of such means for the purpose, as were easily to be obtained. His first trial, as he states in his narrative, was made upon his own child, which was given over by the doctor that attended it, as past cure; being insensible and so far gone as to make it impossible to get medicine into his stomach. He says, "I sat myself in a chair and held her in my lap, and put a blanket around us both; then my wife held a hot spider or shovel between my feet, and I poured on vinegar to raise a steam, and kept it as hot as I found she could bear, changing them as soon as they become cold; and, by following this plan for about twenty minutes, she became comfortable and breathed easy. I followed this mode of treatment for about a week, steaming every two hours, when she began to gain, and soon recovered." This experiment was made in 1796, and the complete success that attended the trial, led him to make use of the steam-bath in all difficult cases after.

In the course of his practice he tried many different ways to steam his patients, both with vinegar and water, and also by medicating the vapor with herbs, by placing a quantity round a hot stone and pouring on water; but found, from experience, that a steam made by pure water was far the best; and to introduce the medicine into the stomach, and apply the steam externally, was the only safe and certain method in which the patient could be relieved by its application. By these simple means he was enabled to give immediate relief in cases that were pronounced by the regular doctors as incurable; and there can be no doubt of the fact, that he has been the principal cause of introducing into the medical practice one of the most safe and effectual remedies that has ever been discovered.

It cannot be disputed but that steam has been, for many ages, made use of in curing disease; but it appears evident, from all I can learn on the sub-

ject, to have been confined to those people who depend for all their remedies upon their own experience; and are content to follow the indications that nature points out to them in relieving the sick and promoting their comfort and health. The hot and cold water baths have been used by the people of all nations from time immemorial; and the warm bath is frequently recommended by the medical faculty in various cases of disease; but the application of steam, or what is called the vapor-bath, seems not to have been known by them, or introduced into their practice, till within a few years, and, by the manner in which they apply it, there is good reason to believe that they are now ignorant of the true principles upon which the application of steam can be made to produce the desired effect, with the greatest safety to the patient. They are, to say the least, far behind Dr. Thomson in correct knowledge of the extent to which this important and salutary means of giving relief by throwing on the morbid matter from the system, can be carried with the most perfect safety.

I shall proceed to give you my own views on the subject, with such reasons for the conclusions I have drawn in favor of our theory, as I have been enabled to collect both from the doctor and my own experience. In cases where the patient is very weak, and the inward or vital heat is low, they can bear but little external heat, without fainting. The reason is obvious, for life is maintained by the power that the inward has over the outward heat; and as one approaches to a balance with the other, the strength will be diminished, and, when equal, all motion ceases. This may be done by lessening the inward as well as increasing the outward heat, both produce the same effect; as is often the case by bleeding or receiving some sudden injury. On any other ground, how can we account for the sudden loss of all strength? The muscles and all the component parts of the body remain the same, and there may be as much strength a short time before and after the fainting fit as in a state of health.

These occurrences, from their frequency produce little inquiry as to

their cause; for, when we become acquainted with effects, we are not apt to trouble ourselves about the means by which they are accomplished. The practice of dashing cold water on the face and bosom of a person when fainting, to resuscitate them, has long been known, and is the first thing thought of as a remedy in such cases. The reasons why it has that effect, is readily answered by a recurrence to the principles I have advanced. The application of cold water lessens the heat on the surface of the body, which gives full power to the inward heat; by which means animation is restored so as to renew the natural circulation and carry on the functions of life. The same effect may be caused by giving a powerful stimulant to raise the inward heat; for there is no difference whether you raise the fountain or lower the streams, both produce the same results.

This stage of our inquiry naturally brings to view a very important part of the practice, a correct knowledge of which is essentially necessary, in order to ensure its efficacy as well as safety—that is, the applying cold water to the patient when under the greatest degree of excitement from the steam-bath. This has excited fears in the minds of many, and has caused a prejudice against the practice; but all apprehensions of danger vanish on a fair trial; for no one would be willing to omit it after once experiencing the enjoyment and benefits derived from its application. “Our doubts, and fears, and jealousies, all arise from ignorance, because, when discreetly applied, it can never be worse than pleasant and safe. But this is negative praise, the mere foundation of its positive merit.” Why are not the same fears apprehended from the practice of washing the face and hands with cold water immediately on rising from a warm bed, when in a state of perspiration? The cases are in a great degree similar: yet this universal custom will readily be allowed by every one to be not only safe but conducive to health. It is a fact well known to all who have experience in the Thomsonian practice, that the application of cold water, when using the steam-bath, as well as in numerous cases of external injuries, is productive of the

greatest benefit in removing disease, and is attended with no kind of danger, when the vital heat is sufficient to keep the determining powers from the stomach to the surface of the body.

The reasons why I have formed so conclusive an opinion upon the necessity of applying cold water when under the operation of the steam-bath, as well as of the safety of the practice, I will now endeavor to explain. By a bath of aqueous vapor, when properly applied, and the body shielded from the surrounding air, a profuse perspiration is induced, the circulation of the fluids of the body is promoted, the numerous little vessels of the surface are excited and thrown open, and the skin becomes, as it were, like a sponge. In this state, if the patient should be exposed to the cold air, there would be great danger from the effects of cold, which, being opposed to heat, would counteract all the benefits that might otherwise be derived from the application of steam, by turning the determining powers in; and very bad consequences might follow. The same cause often produces similar effects in cases where a person sits in a cool place after getting into a profuse perspiration from exercise. By applying cold water to the surface before coming to the air, the pores are closed and the skin is brought into a natural state, so as to be able to resist the pressure of the cold air; and not only all danger is thereby guarded against, but the whole system is wonderfully invigorated, and the circulation is increased to such a degree as to cause a delightful glow all over the surface.

It is often the case that a patient under the operation of the steam-bath, when brought into a state of almost exhaustion by the applied heat, will instantly, on applying the cold water, possess much more strength and activity than when in a state of health; which will last several hours; and, if the stomach is correct, so as to digest the food taken into it, the natural health and strength will soon be restored. This is no visionary theory; for the knowledge on which a belief of the facts are supported, has been derived from actual experience, the only correct source that can be depended upon.

In order to illustrate more fully the



principles I am endeavoring to support, and to give you a more correct understanding of the subject, I shall relate the following case, which I attended to; and the facts, as stated, can be proved by several witnesses.

A young woman aged about 20, had been confined to a sick bed for five months, with what the doctors call a liver complaint. She had been attended by several of the most celebrated of the Faculty, who had pursued the depletive plan of treatment, till she was reduced very low, without receiving the least benefit as to removing the complaint. They had bled her seven times, and administered as much calomel as she could bear without causing salivation. The patient had now become very weak, the hands and feet were cold, the skin dry, and the circulation so small, that, on cording the wrist, there was scarce the appearance of a vein on the hand. In this situation the doctors had left her, acknowledging that their plan of treatment had not been successful, and could give no encouragement for her recovery. Her friends considered her in a decline, and that she would live but a short time.

I undertook the case with great reluctance, as I considered a cure extremely doubtful; but the friends were so urgent, and the young woman appearing so anxious and willing to try the medicine, that I was induced to promise to stop three or four days, and give them such information as would enable them to attend upon her themselves. I began by giving the composition of vegetable powders to raise the inward heat, putting a hot stone to the feet; which plan was followed for 36 hours, when there was a good degree of circulation, the perspiration was free and natural, and the strength seemed to increase as the inward heat was raised. On the second day the steam-bath was applied, which was attended with very extraordinary success. Strong doubts were entertained of her being able to stand over the steam, being so weak as to be unable to get out of bed without assistance; but all were agreeably disappointed, for, by raising the steam gradually, and once or twice wetting the face with cold water, she was enabled to stand

over it for twenty minutes, without least apparent inconvenience, during which the heat was raised to 110 degrees of Fahrenheit. The outward heat being now as high as she could bear without fainting, a large quantity of cold water was poured upon the head, and the body washed all over with a cloth wet with the same. She was then wiped dry and dressed, after which she walked several times across the room, and appeared to be as strong as a well person. The blood vessels were full, the circulation quick, and there was a natural glow all over the surface.

In a short time she was undressed and put into bed; and, in about two hours the emetic was given and a full course of medicine completed, which had a favorable effect as could be witnessed. She had a comfortable night's rest; and the next morning I found her sitting at the table eating a hearty breakfast, pursuing the same plan of treatment about ten days, during which time it was carried through the same process two or three times, (which was done by the women in the family,) and afterwards occasionally using the steam-bath, with bitters to assist the digestion, she was in four weeks restored to a perfect state of health, to the great joy and satisfaction of herself and friends, and the disappointment and mortification of the doctors, who had said that it would be impossible for her to live through the operation of the medicine.

This case forms a practical illustration of the great benefits derived from the steam bath, when judiciously and properly administered; and also the utility and safety of applying cold water. There was a large quantity of water made use of, taken directly from the pump, and very cold, much more than what was necessary. This was done to satisfy the friends, who expressed great fears that this part of the process would be fatal to the patient, being so very low; but, on witnessing its salutary effects, they became perfectly convinced that it was not only safe but very useful; and the father, a well educated scientific gentleman, declared that no other evidence, except his own senses, could have wrought conviction on his mind.

The great importance of the subject under consideration, induces me to extend the enquiry, and attempt to give a more particular description of the various ways in which the steam-bath has been used as a means to remove disease; and, as our main object is to gain knowledge by the experience of the wise and judicious investigators of truth, I shall give the opinion of some late writers on the subject, with such historical facts as I have been able to collect.

*(To be continued.)*

### PERSEVERENCE

Is all-important in Cholera cases. Instances of recovery from extreme cases of collapse, in this form of disease, are very numerous. The pulseless and speechless, whose extremities have been cold and clammy to the trunk of the body, have often been relieved—have had the disease entirely removed, and have been effectually restored to their wonted health. Do not abandon your patients while one ray of hope remains.

Patients are sometimes lost, who are beginning to revive and rise from a collapsed state of Cholera—whose pulse, that was apparently still, have began to rise, whose skin that was cold and shrivelled, began to feel a glow of returning warmth; whose eyes that were sunken and wan, began to brighten with the light of hope, and whose faltering tongues that were paralised, began to stammer out some of their wants. These, by being abandoned to negligent, inattentive, and unfeeling, or ignorant nurses, have been sometimes lost, though they were certainly beginning to recover. Mercenary wretches have been known to take the medicine for their own use, while they left the feeble, helpless patient to die, regardless of that humanity that warms every generous heart.

The mind that is open to conviction, and determined to pursue truth wherever she may guide, will derive lessons, even from its own mistakes, which may prove salutary to itself and to the world.

### COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE RECORDER.

#### REMARKS ON CHOLERA, No. 1.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The subjoined remarks on Epidemic Cholera, are submitted to your inspection to be disposed of in such a way as will best subserve the high interest of the noble cause in which you are now industriously engaged. The ravages of the Cholera have been extensive. It has become an all-absorbing subject. Our health and lives, and those of our fellow-men are at stake. If any thing that I can offer should be accounted interesting and worthy a place in your intelligent, useful, and widely-circulating Recorder, I shall feel happy in the reflection that I have honestly endeavored to contribute my mite to that stock of information your periodical is distributing so extensively in these United States.

Through the spring and summer of the current year, the effects of Cholera have been again felt with much severity. The principal towns and cities along our great waters, from Orleans to Pittsburgh, have been visited by this destructive pestilence. In some places it has made tremendous desolation. Some pleasant and flourishing towns have been almost depopulated, the inhabitants having died or fled to escape the plague. Those whose circumstances would admit, betook themselves to flight, while others have been left to encounter the danger that threatened them, without Physician or nurse to aid them in their affliction. Not only the Boroughs and Cities upon our great waters, have been visited; but the disease has spread into the interior of the country. It has seized the farmer in its iron grasp. Retirement from the busy scenes of city life has not afforded any protection or security from the prevailing epidemic. The Faculty do not appear to know much, if any thing, more about the origin, nature, or remedy for this disease, than they did before they ever saw a case. The cause why disease has recently assumed a new and alarming form, is an enquiry involved in many difficulties. As we are so much at a loss on this point,

it is useless to follow after conjectures and suppositions that have been hatched in learned brains. Such instructions serve rather to make the darkness visible. Who among the wisest of the Faculty, can inform us whether this plague is likely to become a permanent disease and a resident minister of death? or whether, like a tornado, that has spent its rage, it will pass away, and, like its dying victims, be no more seen among the citizens of our country? Waving all enquiries, in these labarintbs of human conjecture and philosophical uncertainties, a prudent man would say, make every rational preparation to sustain the calamity, if it come upon you, with becoming fortitude and composure, always, in every condition, hoping for a favorable result.

The privilege of a free communication of our ideas on this all-important theme, should be highly prized and faithfully improved. Useful knowledge is progressing in the civilized world. Perhaps some favored individual, more fortunate than many others, may discover some more specific, more infallible remedy than has yet been discovered. Such has been the success of botanic medicine, our expectations may well be raised. No reasonable doubt remains but that nature's God has well stored the world he has created with antidotes suited to every form of disease. It is man's prerogative to search and find them out.

In relation to the Cholera, for the information of those who are not acquainted with it, and to revive the recollection of those who have been conversant with it, I will briefly remark, that, agreeably to my observation, the first intimations of commencing Cholera, are commonly an unusual, uneasy sensation in the bowels, and frequently some slight affection of the stomach.—To these incipient complainings, there soon succeeds a rumbling tumultuous noise, as if the whole volume of the intestines was filled with wind and water, and all in terrible commotion.

These premonitory intimations are followed by copious watery evacuations, at first of a whitish appearance. The nausea of the stomach increasing, universal debility pervades the whole frame.

It is worthy of remark, that unless the bowels be in a state of constipation, this stage of the complaint is accompanied by comparatively little pain. Its painfulness by no means equals what is often experienced in common dysenteries. Where there is an obstinate costive habit, the pain is often intense. These symptoms may be regarded as the first, the incipient and forming stage of this distressing malady; they may continue from two or three hours to three, four, or five days. The most usual period of its duration, before passing into the *second stage*, is from twenty-four to forty-eight hours.

The second stage of Cholera may be distinguished by an aggravation or increased violence of the preceding symptoms, by the puking and purging supervene, accompanied with distressful cramps of the extremities. Sometimes a single fibre appears, by the sensation produced, to be the seat of a spasmodic affection. In this stage of the complaint there is universal great prostration of strength, a small, quick, feeble pulsation, a sunken depressed countenance, and indescribable universal restlessness. The collapsed stage generally succeeds the second stage in the course of a few hours. It comes on more rapidly with some than with others. A tolerably accurate calculation may commonly be made by an experienced and observing practitioner, from paying a proper attention to the progress of the first stage of the disease. If the first stage passes into the second in quick succession, the collapses may be expected speedily to ensue. If the patient labors long and lingeringly under the first stage, the disease, if not prevented by a successful application of appropriate means, will be of long duration.

The third, or collapsed stage, as it is commonly designated, may be readily distinguished by a peculiar death-like coldness of the face, tongue, hands and feet, the livid discoloration or settling of the blood under the nails, pulsation suspended or scarcely perceptible at the wrist.

There is one circumstance we must not forget to mention; it has been mentioned by some, but not by all who have written on Cholera; it is this I allude to: "The skin, when moved

pon the muscles, or pinched together, will remain in a fixed situation.—Respiration, in such cases, is short and hurried, and the ghastly visage of death is strongly depicted in every feature.

I have now given a concise and accurate account of the most prominent symptoms attending this new and desolating form of pestilence.

By the description I have given, I am persuaded that every attentive observer will be able to distinguish, without difficulty, between Cholera and all the usual forms of disease that have yet appeared in our country. In a future number I design to communicate something relative to the most eligible mode of treating a Cholera patient, or give a detail of the method of treatment that I have found most successful. What I have to offer is the result of experience and observation, and is candidly communicated with an honest design to be useful to my fellow men.

CINCINNATUS.

#### *For the Recorder.*

**Messrs. Editors:**—The enclosed scrap of a letter is forwarded to you without date or signature, just as it was picked up, when being blown about the streets of a neighboring village. If by any casualty it was never completed and forwarded as originally designed, it is hoped it may, through the medium of the press, reach the eye of that mistaken brother for whose benefit it was intended, and return a wanderer from the error of his ways.

X. Y. Z.

**DEAR BROTHER:**—You and I have reached a good old age! We have accumulated for ourselves property that has placed us beyond the grasp of poverty, or the want of food or raiment for ourselves and families the residue of our days, if we manage with any reasonable degree of prudence. But, my dear brother, I am afraid that if you should ever see the number of days our father has seen, you will yet die a poor man! My fears are not groundless.—With true fraternal freedom I will just remind you that you are a whiskey-drinker! Do not startle, my dear Jo-

seph, I do not charge you with drunkenness, nor even intemperance! No, I make no such unkind and disrespectful insinuations. I repeat it, you are a whiskey-drinker. You cannot be insensible that I am fully apprized of the fact relative to your case. Not a day passes over your head without its drams to wash time along. I believe what you were saying in a confidential circle, the last time I saw you, that you were never drunk but twice in your life. I suppose you meant that you never were completely down, neck and heels; that is, what we call dead drunk, more than twice. Be it so. If I never saw you knock-kneed, staggering drunk, I have seen you walk tottering, clumsily, and blunderingly, oftener than the twice you mention. Besides, that occasional tremor that you have on your nerves, that affects your hand-writing, and that sexual impotency you have been endeavoring to relieve by medicine, will stick to you until you quit your dram-drinking. You are not apprized of the visible effects it produces. I can always tell when you have been to your bottle. It always produces consequences perhaps more plainly perceptible to all the world beside than to yourself. Your forgetfulness, which I have noticed with surprise, must have originated from the use of the bottle more than from the effect of years! I know this by my own case. I am older than you are. I use no drams, and my memory is not half as treacherous as yours. Dram-drinking, though practiced in a way the world may call moderate, not only injures the retentive faculty, but impairs the judgment, deranges mental equanimity, and debases the moral purity of the soul. I never will make a tippler my confidant. A man that uses a *little* ardent spirits, two or three times every day—such an one shall never be my confidant. He would be \*\*\*

It is astonishing, and will remain an astonishment to future ages, that the very rankest poisons are the greatest remedies now in use in the world, and have been for at least fifty years past. It would be a melancholy tale, could it be told, the millions who have perished through this practice.—*Robts. Lects.*

**THE RECORDER.****COLUMNS,**

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1833.

**THOMSONIAN REMEDIES**

Are an effectual antidote for Cholera. No fact is better established. Public confidence is becoming wide awake. The regular faculty fly from its approach as from the fangs of a deadly serpent. The Thomsonian, like the good Samaritan, hunts out the sick and afflicted, and pours upon him the balm of a rational and successful practice. The regular faculty do sometimes honestly confess that they cannot control the disease, but Thomsonians everywhere contend that they have controlled, and can again control it. All they ask is a fair chance to make a timely and faithful application of the remedies. Witnesses are becoming so numerous that the runaway Faculty, who have long made themselves merry at our expense, begin to look and feel chop-fallen, but, in the agonies of despair and mortification, they will even venture many times to dissuade men from the use of our remedies. Our rising, they consider as their degradation. Whereas, if they would act the honest part, acknowledge the truth, and invite men's attention to what will best subserve the general interest, regardless of private emolument, it would be infinitely better for them and for the community at large.

O, how grand is that character, that can rise superior to sense and selfishness—and cling to the radiant glory of immutable truth!

A Scotch paper notices an old man living at Glasgow, who is years of age. She never took a doctor's drug in all her life, nor was a set ever applied to her frame. She is perfectly free from affections of the chest, and, during the last century of her life, she has been a perfect stranger to pain, and her pulse does not exceed seventy. Her grandfather at the age of 129, and her father at the 120th year of his age.

The National Library and Advocate of Civil and Religious Liberty, or Universal Repository of Useful Knowledge. Where knowledge, the blessings of liberty are fully enjoyed or long preserved.—Compiled by JESSE TORRY, Jr.

Vol. 1. Philadelphia, May 15, 1833. N. Published by J. P. Sleeper, 121, North Second Street, on the 1st and 3d of every month, at one dollar for sixteen numbers, payable in advance.

We would most respectfully acknowledge the reception of the first number of a periodical, bearing the above title at the head of the first page. It is printed on paper of a good quality, with a fair type, and neatly executed: Contains sixteen octavo pages.

The Prospectus accompanying this number is spread over the seven first pages. The principal subjects to which the National Library will be devoted, will be classified into seventeen departments, as follows:

1. Medicine, Health and Longevity.
2. Moral Department.
3. Domestic Economy.
4. Political Economy.
5. Political Department.
6. Farmers' Department.
7. Mechanics' Department.
8. Commercial Department.
9. Department of Schools, Libraries, &c.
10. Scientific Department.
11. Literary Department.
12. Entertaining Department.
13. Ladies' Department.
14. Youths' Department.
15. Miscellaneous Department.
16. Reformation, Retrenchment, &c.
17. Religious Department.

After inserting his Prospectus, the Editor has nine whole pages and a fraction, on which to commence a display of his subjects in extenso, in which he treats first of the Washing-



**MONUMENT.** 2dly, of Nullification and Banks. 3dly, of Paper Banking. 4thly, Medical Reformation. 5thly, a Solemn Address to the Clergy. "Descent," says, "from your pulpits; extend the hand of equal fellowship to your congregations, [Mr. P. preaches in the Penitentiary—this is rather a travelling system,] say to them, We are no longer Reverend—We will no longer speak to you as if you were little children, credulous of the most inconceivable absurdities and inconsistencies. We will no longer tell you that our sins, vices, follies, or crimes, were atoned for by the sufferings of a single innocent person, many hundred years ago." We quote no farther. We see how religiously this Department will be filled.—Here is the spice to season every page. In the sixth place, we have an "Essay on Native Depravity." Seventhly and lastly, we have his "Address to Readers and Correspondents."

The work, we perceive, is intended to be a *multum in parvo*. The Editor or Editors informs us that "The National Library is intended to be a Domestic Repository, or Cyclopædia of Essential Information, Moral, Civil, Physiological, Medical, Mechanical, Agricultural, Scientific, and Miscellaneous."

Its undertakers certainly make great pretensions. They have promised much, which will require talents and industry, supported by extensive patronage, ever to accomplish, to any tolerable satisfaction, to our enlightened community. We are not disposed to applaud or censure. Those who subsist by our flatteries, will find themselves reduced to short allowance. Of their editorial abilities we are well apprized. In this respect we tender them the homage of our respectful consideration. We are pleased to hear them say, "competent assistant Editors have been engaged to co-operate with us in the vast field of intellectual labor, which we have delineated for cultivation."

A correspondent notes, in a Postscript to a letter of business, that "the 6th No. of the Recorder has never reached him—the 15th number, says he, came to me *alone and loose* in the mail. The others that should have

come with mine did not arrive. *Perhaps* they may yet come, when some careless Postmaster may think proper to gather them up and throw them into the mail.

N. B. This complaint is from a respectable Postmaster, who, in the discharge of his own official duties, appears to act conscientiously. He also appears to have an accurate conception of the lawless abuses of public and private confidence that frequently occur. When we consider the unusual care with which the Recorder is put up, in the strongest of paper, and by experienced and careful hands, and mailed here with undoubted carefulness, we must confess we are not a little mortified at the many complaints that have reached us.—However, there is undoubtedly blame to be attached some where. Measures are in contemplation for the detection of delinquents, who trifle with official duties, disregard the solemnities of a legal oath, and wantonly abuse the trust committed to their charge. We wish our Agents to be every where on the alert, and co-operate with persevering efforts to ferret out the individuals who are guilty of such gross dereliction of principle and perverseness of conduct. It affords no pleasure to complain. One detection would please us more than seven years' murmuring. We are intent on detection, if it can possibly be effected.

### PLAGUE.

The General Andreossi observed that the plague was unknown in the islands of Menzali. I could find no traces of it till my arrival in San, and there a cemetery was pointed out to me, in which 300 black soldiers of the Pacha were interred two years ago, all having died of the Plague. They were encamped

outside the village, and not one of the fellaghs were infected.

A similar occurrence happened nine years ago in Damietta. A vessel arrived from Syria, with a great number of Turkish passengers; they were all infected, and were distributed over Damietta before the fact was known of their illness. In the course of ten days, most of them died, with unequivocal tokens of Plague, buboes, and carbuncles; yet *not an individual at Damietta took the disease!*

The climate of Damietta I do not consider good: the rice grounds are necessarily laid under water for nearly half the year, and Damietta is consequently little better than a swamp.

That species of billious remittent fever which the natives call pernicious, has prevailed for the last two months. I treated several cases, I presume, as other English medical men would have done, and I flattered myself that I was very successful in my practice; but, on enquiring into twelve cases of recent occurrence amongst Sarur's Arab husbandmen, I found that *they had no medical treatment whatever*, and that the mortality was precisely the same with them without physic, as it was with mine with it. It was rather humiliating to a HADKIN [Physician] to discover that nature, in this instance, was not influenced by his art, and that, whether men were drenched with physic, or with cold water, the event was the same.—*Madden's Letters*, 1827.

N. B. We have seen a note appended to the above quotation, that reflects but little credit on the learned Faculty. The celebrated German Physician, Rufelomdt, in one of his latest publications, says, "of the diseases which are not generally considered mortal, I am now fully convinced, after 30 years practice, that, of all the patients

whom I have treated, two-thirds have recovered without my assistance, or that of medicine, and even under the most opposite modes of treatment [What a pernicious and ruinous result must arise from the confused conflicting modes of treatment adopted by Regular Physicians in those forms of disease accounted mortal—such as Plague, Yellow Fever, Cholera, &c.]

A down-the-river correspondent writes thus, under date of 19th Apr. last. "Your extra of the 13th of Apr. has been received. Eight or ten numbers of the Eclectic have been sent to me—why or wherefore is unknown to me. However, it contains in my humble opinion, its own warrant—a version by its friends which they will not deny—it gives the view of the whole ground. We discover plainly that their reformed Thomsonianism, national republicanism, &c. does not consist in doing to others as they would rationally wish to be done by—no, but is truly characteristic of ancient and modern Judaism; a project to keep up the vile trash which will perish in the using. Truth, charity, humanity, in spite of every effort of concealment and prevarication, are horribly deformed. What the philosophic mind of Samuel Thomson would have compressed into a nut-shell for the good of the human race, they are extending over massy volumes, deforming by mystery, and beclouding with technical language and scientific fancies; so that, were we to aid them in their extravagant whimsical calculations, in process of time, medicine, instead of being reformed and comprehensible by the people at large, would be circumscribed to accommodate a privileged few! Shame! O shame. But the brazen face of pretended reformation and fallacious improvement cannot be made to blanch!

*From the Boston Investigator.*

**REMARKABLE CURE.**

Mr. Editor:—Conceiving it to be the duty of every person to do all in his power to relieve the distresses of suffering humanity, I send you the following statement of my case of one of the most distressing complaints, or rather complication of complaints that any human being ever endured.

At the age of 4 years, I was taken sick with the Measles, from which time, to the age of 17, I never knew a day that I was free from pain or sickness of some kind. At 17 years of age, the severe headache with which I had for years been afflicted, suddenly left me, and a violent humor broke out, and I became covered with blotches, which the physicians termed Scrofula. I was then afflicted with costiveness and bleeding, which, with the medicine I had taken, brought on a severe attack of the piles.

At this time I resided in Malden, where I had the attendance and advice of the first physicians, both there and in the city, all which afforded me no relief.

The Physicians stated I had a stricture in my bowels, and the passage of the body was growing up, and that it was impossible I should ever get well. I am confident I never should, for the more medicine I took, the more pain I felt; and, for over two years, I had to use injections constantly when I wished any passage through my bowels, and the humor settling in my eyes, I was for some time nearly blind. Indeed I was in the most miserable situation that can be imagined and cannot be described. I was afflicted with Dyspepsia to such a degree that every morsel of food I swallowed caused the most violent distress, and a continued pain in my side, called by the physician liver complaint. I received no relief, having had the best physicians, and by them pronounced incurable. At this time, by the persuasion of my friends and one of my neighbors who had been cured of a distressing complaint by the use of the Thomsonian System of Medicine, I was induced last February to go to the Infirmary in this city, at the corner of

Charles and Sumner Streets; where, staying but one week, and taking three courses of medicine, my pains all left me. I regained my health, strength, and spirits, and since then have been to New York and Philadelphia, and now enjoy such health as I never in my life before enjoyed. My bowels are now in regular order, which I have not known before for 9 years.

For myself, I have always been opposed to every species of quackery, and when I heard of the Thomsonian Medicine, and the dreadful stories about Lobelia and Steam, I considered it quackery of the worst kind, and became strongly prejudiced against it. It was with the utmost difficulty that I could be persuaded to try it. I never can be sufficiently thankful for the relief I have obtained, and it is my earnest wish that every one who read this statement and is suffering under disease, would give a fair trial to the Thomsonian Medicine; for I feel confident that any medicine which would relieve me, would relieve any disease whatever. If any person would wish to learn the particulars of the case, I should be happy to give it them by calling at the Infirmary, as stated above.

S. P. SPRAGUE.

Boston, June 21, 1833.

*Study of Nature.*—However thoughtlessly we may proceed along in our daily walks, there is yet a world of wonders around us that has astonished philosophers and is sufficient to excite the curiosity of angels. There is order in every thing. The little worm we tread on has its manners or its habits; it is a link in that chain of being which rises from the dust and ascends higher than the eye of man can travel. The bird, the fish and beast, each obey the laws of their being, and more wonderful, inanimate matter is under the control of certain laws or affinities, so that we can calculate the effects from the cause applied, and reason correctly of substances that owe no allegiance to the power of mind. A hundred life-times would be a term too short to exhaust the wonders that surround us every moment of existence.

## PRICKLEY ASH.

There is a species of this shrub, or small tree, that is a native of the United States. It grows plentifully in many parts of Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and divers other places. This kind has been called [*Zanthoxylum Fraxinifolium*, or Ash-leaved *Zanthoxylum*.] The *Zanthoxylum Clavis Herculis*, or prickly yellow wood, grows in the more Southern States. It is a native of Jamaica and other tropical countries. The Prickly Ash bears the names of [*Fraxinus Spinosus* and *Aralia Spinosa*.] It has sundry colonial names, as Prickly Elder, Shot Bush, Toothache Tree, &c. It grows most frequently in fertile swampy grounds, rising from ten to fifteen feet in height. The branches have many strong sharp-pointed prickles, and the tree produces abundance of small berries. The bark, berries, and seed-vessels are powerfully stimulant. When chewed, or otherwise used, they make a strong impression on the salivary glands, occasion a warm glow in the mouth, throat, and stomach. There appears to be several varieties of this tree, but they are all of the same family, differing in virtue only, as the African Cayenne differs from the Red Peppers that grow in our country. That which grows at the South being stronger, more stimulating and warming when used for medicinal purposes. It possesses very active qualities. A saturated tincture of the berries has been successfully used in flatulent cholics, pains in the breast, &c. The bark and berries, in substance, have been found useful in chronic rheumatism and intermittent fevers, called Fever and Ague. That species that grows in Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia, and there called 'Toothache Tree, is excellent for tooth-ache, palsical affections of the tongue or throat. When the bark is used for this purpose, it should be chewed freely and frequently. Ill-conditioned ulcers have been cured by being washed with a strong decoction of the bark, and sprinkling a fine powder of the same over the sore. Dr. Henry relates a case of this kind, in which he successfully managed an extensive ulcer in this way, and kept the parts covered with a Green Plantain leaf, which he changed twice a day.

The bark and berries of every species are a valuable article to compound stomachic bitters, in cases of dyspepsia, to assist digestion. See Dr. Thomson on this article, in his *N. Guide*.

[The Prickley Ash has been very successfully used by Dr. N. Hixson, in preparation of *Cholera Syrup*.]

## ANECDOTE.

A celebrated doctor who had introduced bleeding and calomel as a fallible remedy in fevers, had attended a gentleman for some time, when the patient finding himself grow worse under his treatment, proposed the calling of another physician. "With all my heart, my dear friend," said the doctor; upon which the gentleman named a certain physician whom it was known he had no faith in his infallible remedies and whose practice had been founded more upon experience than fashionable theories. "No," replied the doctor, "son of Mercury, I will never associate with him." "If you will not associate with Dr. —," said the gentleman, "he must attend without you; that is all." A few days after, the former seeing the latter going to his old patient, called out to him—"He is out of danger already; I defy you to kill him." "Why," replied the empiric, "after his passing through your hands, he may, indeed, safely set death at defiance."

## SCIENTIFIC EXCURSION.

We understand that Mr. Browne, whose efforts in the cause of Natural History we have often noticed in our columns, is prosecuting the excursion his friends recently enabled him to undertake with great success. He has visited several important portions of the Southern coast to a good degree unexplored by the Naturalists. We feel confident that his tour will prove highly satisfactory to all concerned.

[*Amer. Farmer.*]

If it were not for that idol—self-interest—which so many worship, there would be little difficulty in profiting by past experience.

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HERSEY, *Senior Editor.*

VOL. I.] COLUMBUS, JULY 28, 1833. [No. 23.

## TOWN'S LECTURES.

### Lecture 2—On the Thomsonian System of Practice.

To gain correct knowledge on any subject, it is necessary to investigate facts, and search into the actual experience of those ingenious men, who have, in different ages, devoted themselves to the cause of improving the condition and promoting the happiness of their fellow-creatures. One ounce of experience is worth all the visionary and hypothetical theories of those whose only aim is to amuse rather than to instruct mankind. Gilding a pill containing poison, may cause it to be easier swallowed, but will not prevent its deadly effects. Natural causes and effects are very simple, and, as far as it regards our health and comforts in this life, may be easily understood by every rational being, to such extent as our necessities may require.

Those great men who have been most distinguished for their ingenuity, and who have made the most useful discoveries, have been, almost without an exception, self taught. They have depended on the resources of their own minds, with the aid of experience, to obtain a correct knowledge of causes and effects; and have taken the great book of nature, which is unerring, for their guide. In pursuing their studies, they have, as it were, looked "from nature up to nature's God," for instruction, untrammelled by the mystifications of the schools. How, except in this way, did the great men of antiquity obtain their knowledge? Certainly not by reading books, for there were none, except what were in manuscript, and these must have been too limited to have been read by many. One advantage they had over modern times, for they probably had but one language to communicate their ideas in; and the best part of their lives for study was

spent in obtaining useful knowledge, and not in learning what are termed dead languages, a correct understanding of which few ever gain, and the utility is, to say the least, very doubtful.

The reason why I have been led into the above train of thought, has been owing to the fashionable cant, that is often repeated by those who are interested in destroying the confidence of the people in the Thomsonian method of curing disease; by saying that Dr. Thomson "is an ignorant man—that he has no learning," &c. I shall endeavor to make a proper distinction between ignorance and what is called a classical education. I have no hesitation in asserting that there is more ignorance, as to practical and useful knowledge, to be found among those fashionably educated, than among any other class of men. A man may have a very good knowledge of the theory of navigation, and be entirely ignorant of the most important qualifications necessary to make him capable of commanding a ship. Would a merchant put a man in as master of his vessel, who had only learned the theory of navigation, and who was entirely ignorant of practical seamanship? Would a man employ a person to build a house, who had no other knowledge of the business than what he had gained by reading books on architecture? These questions I leave for common sense to answer. And why should we trust what is infinitely of more importance, our lives and healths, in the hands of speculating theorists, in preference to those whose dependance is wholly on their own experience.

If an entire deviation from the mode of practice pursued by the Medical Faculty, is evidence of ignorance, Dr. Thomson may with propriety plead guilty to the charge; for his system is founded upon principles essentially differing from all the modern theories of medical practice; but that this is any



proof of his ignorance I shall deny altogether. To form a correct opinion upon the subject, it is necessary to compare the two modes together, with the success attending each. As to the Thomsonian system, it is founded upon the plan, and all his directions tend to that point, to carefully ascertain the indications which nature points out, and aid her in removing the disease by making use of those vegetable simples that tend to raise the vital heat, promote perspiration, remove obstructions, and restore the digesture; and are in perfect harmony with food, as well as all the means by which life is maintained. The fashionable mode of practice is to administer such medicine, and make use of such other means as tend to reduce the patient, and lessen the powers of life, by the violence of their operation; and, instead of following nature, undertake to be her dogmatical dictator. The consequence is, that nature has to contend against the doctor, as well as the disease; and, if the constitution of the patient is sufficient to withstand both, there may be a recovery, though the disease is generally much protracted, and health is seldom entirely restored.

The success that has attended the Thomsonian system of practice, can only be proved by recurring to a series of facts, well known to all who have had the independence to inquire into the true merits of the case, and impartially to investigate and decide between truth and falsehood. In the first place, there is no man of the present age who has been more extensively engaged in curing disease, and who has devoted himself more faithfully to alleviate the sufferings of his fellow-creatures, than Dr. Thomson. The honesty of his intentions cannot be doubted by those who are acquainted with the facts.—Thousands are ready to testify to cures that he has performed, when resort to all other means had failed. The means he has used have been the inventions of his own mind, produced by the experimental knowledge obtained in his practice. There have been a great number of cases, where he has effected a cure, even beyond the hope of friends, and to the utter astonishment of the Faculty; and we defy them to show

proof of a single instance, where he has had a fair chance, and there was possibility of a cure, that he has failed in restoring the patient to a comfortable, if not a perfect state of health.

That Dr. Thomson has not had what is called a learned education, is certainly true; but what does this argue? Certainly nothing to his discredit. If he could, by his own industry and perseverance, gain a reputation for curing disease, equal, if not superior to the most skilful of the medical faculty, who have had all the advantages of a literary education, why should he not be entitled to praise for his ingenuity and the improvement of those talents with which he has been endowed by his Creator? If he has been regularly educated to the profession of a physician, it is most probable that he would have pursued the same course of others of the faculty, and made profit a greater object than usefulness. The many important discoveries he has made in the treatment of disease, would most likely have been lost to the world, at least for a length of time. The use of the steam-bath, which he has been the undoubted cause of introducing into use among the medical faculty, would still have been confined to those uncivilized tribes who look to nature only for all their remedies; and the discovery of the medical properties of the invaluable herb Lobelia might never have been made.

In regard to the application of the steam-bath, as a means of removing obstructions and restoring health, I shall merely remark, in addition to what has been before said on the subject, that its importance as a remedy, has, within a few years past, arrested the attention of a number of men eminent for their knowledge and philanthropy. The great difficulty seems to be, in the experiments of the Medical Faculty, to unite it in alliance with their mode of practice. This is impossible; for a fire cannot be kindled by putting on snow or ice. The only way to increase heat is to make use of such fuel as is best calculated to increase the fire. All of what are called depletive remedies, tend to lessen the vital heat, and of course to reduce the strength; and, when this plan is pursued, the replica-

ion of the steam-bath will do little good, and, in most cases, would be dangerous: for the patient can only bear the hot vapor in proportion to the power of the inward heat.

Dr. Thomson, as has been before remarked, always took experience as his instructor; and, as necessity is the mother of invention, his inquiring mind led him to practice upon the precept, and try all those means that were within his reach, to effect the object he had in view in removing the disease.—Among his experiments there was none that he hit upon which has proved a more valuable discovery than the application of steam. In his first applying it he made use of such means as were easily obtained, under the peculiar circumstances in which he was placed; for he had no convenience prepared for him; but had to depend upon such ways and means as his own mind suggested and the necessity of the case required.—After he had adopted the steam-bath as a part of his practice, he made use of hot stones, and applied the process in the following manner:—First he administered medicine to raise the vital heat, and get the patient as warm as possible—put two or three stones on the fire till red hot, then put one of them in a kettle or iron pan—place the patient over it, after being undressed and shielded by a blanket; then pouring on boiling water from a tea-kettle to raise a steam—beginning moderately and increasing it as the patient can bear, changing the stones as they become cool. When they have stood over the stones as long as they can conveniently bear, which will be from fifteen to twenty minutes, wash them all over with cold water; then rub them well with a dry cloth and dress, if not too low; if weak, put them into a warm bed, with a hot stone at the feet, wrapped in wet cloths.

There have been several plans adopted by Dr. Thomson and others, to apply the steam bath, more convenient to the patient and attended with less labor. He first had a box made like a shower-bath, with a drawer under it in which he placed the hot stone, the bottom of the box bored full of holes to let the steam pass into the box, and the top so contrived as to let the cold wa-

ter upon them when needed. He has, also, instead of the hot stones, used a stove with a boiler in it, and the steam is conveyed by means of a pipe into the bottom of the box. Another plan he has also used, by having a square box, about two feet square and six inches high, the top full of holes, into which the steam is conveyed from the boiler, and a frame covered with cloth, placed on the box, high enough for the patient to stand in. This may be made so as to be portable, and easily removed from one place to another. The plan adopted by Whitlaw, which is called the medicated vapor bath, is nearly similar to the one last described, and is very convenient. The boiler forms a part of the copper stove, from which a pipe conveys the steam into the box, and has a cock to regulate the steam at will. The only difference I can see is, that a little tin box is placed in the wooden one, filled with herbs, through which the steam passes; this gives it the name of medicated vapor; but this I view as a piece of learned quackery, without any use except to keep up appearances.

I shall now close this subject for the present by giving some extracts from late English periodical works, relating to the vapor bath, which give much useful information on this important manner of removing disease; and will show the interest that some of the most eminent men in that country have taken to make it more generally known and more extensively useful among all classes of the people.

“By the expansive power of heat, all liquid and many solid substances may be converted into elastic fluids, and, in this state, they are called vapors, to distinguish them from the permanent gasses.

“When the steam of water alone is used, the bath is *simple*; when the steam is impregnated with the volatile principles of any vegetable or mineral body, it is called *compound*—and, if any medicinal substance is employed, it is a *medicated* bath.

Though the vapor-bath has been but recently introduced among us, it has been known and used, in some of its forms, by many different nations, from their earliest history.

Vitruvius, a celebrated architect, left behind him a minute account of the construction of the Grecian and Roman baths, and Pliny has written on the style and uses of these magnificent edifices. Almost every people have made use of the steam bath, and have varied its application according to the climate they have inhabited, their early customs and natural wants.

In the colder regions of the north, in Russia, Lapland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, &c., there is no cottage so poor, no hut so destitute, as not to possess its vapor-bath, in which the inhabitants experience both comfort and health.

This indulgence makes so essential a part of their system of living, that it is used by persons of every age, and in all circumstances; by infants and women in nearly all their sicknesses; before and after a journey, after hard work or excessive exertion, to obviate the effects of fatigue.

It is also known that the Aborigines of our continent habitually resort to the vapor-bath in their diseases. The method practised by the Indians is not very dissimilar from that employed by the Russians. It consists in making a sudatory formed by a frame work of several poles stuck in the ground and meeting at the top, covered by skins or blankets, laid on with so much nicety as to leave no crevice for the introduction of cold air.

In the middle of this confined building they place red-hot stones, on which they pour water till a steam rises which produces a great degree of heat. The bathers, thus closely confined and steamed, are soon thrown into a state of perspiration which may be increased to any extent.

Having remained in the sweating-house for some time, they hasten to the nearest river or brook, plunge into it, and, after staying in the cold water for half a minute, they dress, sit down and smoke with great composure, fully persuaded that the remedy will prove efficacious.

They often make use of this sudorific method to refresh themselves, or to prepare their minds for the management of any business which require un-  
non deliberation and sagacity.

That for which the people of northern regions are indebted to art, is prepared by nature herself in many places by means of the vapors which issue from the earth near volcanoes, or from hot mineral springs, as at Aix-la-Capelle, Balruc, Lucca, the Island of Chia, and the dry sudatories of Bai and St. Germain, near Naples.

In Egypt and the East, all that taste and art and luxury can contribute, are lavished on their bathing preparations and processes. In the Turkish provinces there is not a village without its public hot or vapor-bath, and nothing can be more sumptuous than the private bath of individuals, in which a luxury more Asiatic seems to exhaust all its splendor.

But let us return more particularly to the vapor-bath, and consider it—as a means of an effeminate or sensual indulgence, but as conducive to cleanliness, and, therefore, friendly to morals; as a means of promoting health, retarding the progress and influence of age, and as capable of preventing or curing many of the diseases to which our climate and social habits subject us.

In a bath of aqueous steam, of suitable warmth and rightly administered, the fluids of the body are equally distributed, there is no congestion in one part nor deficiency in another, the small vessels of the surface are replenished, warmed and excited by a conscious and grateful animation.

All the functions of the interior life are carried on in freedom and harmony, attended with an indescribable sense of well being. A gentle or copious perspiration is raised or continued at will to any desirable degree of duration. On leaving the bath, one feels an expanding lightness and elasticity which are at no other time so fully realized.

This salutary and soothing excitement of the skin and lungs, to which the vapour is equally applied, acts by sympathy on the organs of digestion and circulation, maintaining that action and adjustment throughout the system on which health so much depends, and in which it so much consists.

As a remedy, the union of heat and moisture has been long known, and

where best understood and best known, has been most highly esteemed.

We would not, however, imply to assert that vapor-bathing is a universal or an infallible remedy; we certainly would not claim this character for any article or process of the *Materia Medica*. We would only claim for this, a rank equal to any other for efficiency, and for extent of appropriate application. That it deserves this, is the concurrent testimony of many physicians on the Continent, and of several English authors, who all speak of it from experience and observation. Take, for instance, a single English writer on the subject. Not many years ago, Sir Arthur Clarke, M. D., an Irish physician, published "*An Essay of Warm, Cold, and Vapor Bathing*," in Dublin, and, five years ago, a fifth edition of this work appeared in London. Sir Arthur says:—"In Great Britain the warm bath must have been common from time immemorial, in consequence of its natural hot springs at Bath and Bristol; yet, till the middle of the last century, we have no account of vapor-bathing. About this time an Italian physician, Dr. Dominicetti formed an establishment in London, to which the late Sir J. Fielding gave great publicity by recording the cures performed at it, and communicating them to the magistrates in almost every part of England. Soon after, similar establishments were opened in Chelsea, Kingsbridge, and various other parts of the kingdom, particularly at York, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, &c. In Ireland, warm baths were first established about forty years ago, but it was not till 1810 that a vapor-bath could be obtained in Dublin. In this year an establishment was formed here, in which the author has had an opportunity of trying the effects of the external application of water, in its different forms and temperatures, on the human body, and the predilection which, it will be seen, he entertained for the vapor bath, is founded on his personal experience in this establishment. Since the above, similar institutions have been formed in Cork and Newry, and will, probably, with the progress of improvement, become general in all the principal towns of Ireland."

This author adds—"In the vapor-bath, the stimulant power of heat is modified and tempered by the moisture diffused through the air; and, as the elastic vapor, like air, is a less powerful conductor of heat than a water fluid, the effect of vapor in raising the temperature of the body, is much less than that of the hot bath. Its heating effect is also further diminished by the copious perspiration which ensues: so that on all accounts the vapor bath is safer, as it is, in most cases, more effectual than the hot water bath, and may be employed with success, where the hot bath would be attended with danger.—The utility of this application is obvious in all cases of internal inflammation; it draws a great quantity of blood to the surface, and relieves the internal parts by the secretion of the skin, which is the mode nature takes to resolve inflammations and fevers. Besides an increased perspiration, other effects are produced on the system; equal and due action is restored to the surface, and a highly agreeable sensation is produced, which renders the influence of cool air safe and desirable."

Dr. Johnson, in his observations on yellow fever, says, that the vapor bath, which is now introduced into the British Navy, is likely to prove one of the most useful auxiliaries to draw the blood to the surface, and relieve the internal congestion which exists on the vital organs.

After fever, Sir A. Clarke enumerates the following diseases, among others, in which the vapor bath has given relief, and, in many cases, whose history he reports, the relief was speedy and entire. Inflammation of the bowels, bilious and liver complaints, water in the brain, dropsy, rheumatism, gout, sciatica, scrofulous tumors, gravel, palsy, cutaneous eruptions, spasms, &c. &c.

Though I begin to fear that my remarks on the vapor bath, which were intended to be few and brief, are becoming too long, I cannot willingly close them without wishing to see copied, in part, into your paper, the case related by Dr. Meyers, an eminent practitioner in London, addressed to the Hon. B. Cochrane, who is the author of a treatise on the vapor bath.

"Dear Sir :—Your very polite attention to me, and the very beneficial, as well as agreeable accommodation your kindness has afforded me, by the use of your invaluable and improved vapor bath, when suffering under severe lameness and indisposition from late and repeated attacks of the gout, demand from me my most particular acknowledgment. The utility of the bath to invalids, of various classes, is too obvious to urge me to enter into a minute detail of your very useful invention. By your machinery, vapor of any degree of heat, whether medicated or not, may be conveyed with facility and comfort to any part affected, and when required, to the whole body.

Every one conversant with the innumerable ills which await the human frame, must have deplored with me, the difficulty, the inconvenience, the loss of time, and in some cases, the impossibility of obtaining a warm water bath in a sick bedroom, and, when obtained, how insufficient and difficult the management of it. All this is effectually obviated by your ingenious contrivance. \*\*\* After eighteen weeks of painful confinement to my chamber, by a most unrelenting fit of the gout, I was induced, by your invitation, and the persuasion of several of my medical friends, to inspect your vapor bath. I saw it, approved it, and immediately used it, and repeated it for eight times, about the heat of 120 degrees of Fahrenheit. On my first trial, I was directly solaced and eased from pain, and am now enabled to pursue my wonted and professional occupations with ease and comfort.

I can now, without assistance, get into and out of my carriage, though, on my first visit to you, I was unable to do either without much help, and it was with difficulty, and, by the use of crutch-sticks, that I got through your hall. I am, therefore, fully satisfied of the excellence of your bath and its general utility in a variety of complaints, to which the animal economy is subject, when judiciously administered.

But I will now conclude this long letter, without adding any thing more on the subject, as I trust the world will soon be in possession of your plan, which will indeed be a blessing to the

suffering part of the community, which, by due management, may will become a lasting benefit to mankind."

**Cheap Wash or Paint.**—In answer to the inquiry of your correspondent in page 17, as to a white wash for fences and out-houses, I offer the following recipe :—

To six gallons of hot water add ten pounds of soap, three pints of oil of turpentine, or something like these proportions, and of white clay enough to make a wash of the proper consistency which apply with a common whitewash brush, stirring up and mixing the articles frequently with a stick. A paint may be made by using red clay instead of white. Every part of the country in which I reside, affords fine clays for the purposes, and I presume they are to be found every where.

The expense of painting, in this a house of one story, 20 feet square roof and walls, with two coats, is estimated in labor and materials from four to five dollars, and the paint or wash is in a good degree neat, durable, and useful.—*Amer. Farmer.*

**THE CLOUDS.**—Many people have an idea that the clouds are something very different from the fogs and mists we occasionally experience on the earth's surface. They are mistaken. Mr. Durant's last ascent but one, was made during an easterly storm. It rained, we believe, when he left Castle Garden, and it rained very hard during most of the time he was aloft. He passed through and far above the clouds. In conversation with him the other day, we made some inquiries about the clouds. He remarked that he nowhere experienced a greater degree of dampness (or density of vapor if you please,) than when at and near the earth's surface. On the contrary, the dampness seemed rather to diminish as he ascended, till at length he found himself in a clear, bright atmosphere, with the clouds spreading out beneath, as far as the eye could reach, and the sun shining upon him in its mildest, softest radiance.—*Jour. Com.*



## COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE RECORDER.

## REMARKS ON CHOLERA, No. 2.

**Messrs. Editors:**—In a former number I gave a brief detail of the most remarkable symptoms and appearances in the incipient state, the progress, and closing scenes of Cholera. I now, as was proposed, proceed to give some account of that mode of treatment which I have found successful. Some trivial diversity in the mode or manner of administering Thomsonian remedies, implies no dereliction of principle among practitioners. Cholera being somewhat of a novel form of disease, that has been attended with alarming consequences, and baffled all the skill of our regular physicians, Thomsonians have had an opportunity to put their remedies to the test, and the result has been glorious.

In the first stages of Cholera, when the uneasy sensation and rumbling of the bowels, and nausea at the stomach prevailed, I have commonly had immediate recourse to the syringe, loaded with half a pint of strong bayberry tea, made by infusing one ounce of the bark of the root of bayberry pulverized, in one quart of boiling water. To this half-pint of tea, I add a tea-spoonfull, or say 60 or 80 drops of the third preparation of No. 1. This I administer whenever the rumbling and watery fluctuations of the bowels are particularly experienced, which will commonly be about one in two hours. When this injection is repeated, a wine-glass or half a tea-cupfull of the bayberry tea, with one-third of a tea-spoonfull of best Cayenne, sweetened with a little sugar, should be taken into the stomach. The injection and potation should be administered alternately. The patient should be kept warm in bed, and to promote a free perspiration, hot bricks, or stones, or bottles of hot water, may be placed at the feet, and about them at discretion.

If the disease does not readily yield to this treatment, an emetic should be given and repeated while the nausea and oppressive load remains on the stomach.

After relief is obtained, and the disease appears to be removed, the patient must not indulge too far in a dream of perfect safety; for there is danger from many apparently trivial causes that a relapse may be induced: of course tonics should be used with stimulents four or five times in a day. Nothing that is offensive, heavy, and hard to digest, should be suffered to enter the stomach. The patient should carefully avoid all exposure whereby a relapse may be excited in the system. In cases of relapse, it is proper to note that the disease will hurry on from one stage and degree of violence to another in very rapid succession.

The second stage requires to be treated with special promptness. There is not a minute of time to lose. The quantity of bayberry tea should be increased, two tea-spoonfulls of the third preparation should be added to the bayberry tea. An equal quantity should be added to the injections, and repeated every fifteen or twenty minutes. It will be found beneficial to rub the feet and hands, ancles and wrists, with cayenne and mustard seed, made fine and brought to the consistency of thin paste, with brandy or vinegar, or both. This composition should be applied hot, with a good degree of friction. The parts should be wrapped in hot flannel cloths. These I choose not to have wet with any thing, lest the evaporation should carry off too much of the animal heat. This course it will be proper to continue until the cramp yields to the treatment. It will be found useful to apply strong cataplasms, or sinapisms, composed of cayenne and mustard, round the wrists and ancles, and continue to keep the patient warm by means of warm bricks, or stones, or bottles of hot water, as before recommended. At the same time administer warm drink, viz. composition tea, or mint, or pennyroyal tea. In want of those articles, and for the sake of variety, so as not to offend the stomach, recourse may be had to sage, catnep, or balm tea. Thus you can keep up a free perspiration. When the patient begins to revive, and a degree of warmth to be increasing at the extremities, and the cramp subsides, the patient must be still treated, as in the first stage.

with the addition of some chicken soup, or some other liquid nourishment to be given by way of injection. These should be administered immediately after stimulating injections are discharged, and repeated until they can be fairly retained.

In the third or collapsed stage, all the symptoms appear in an aggravated form and rush with violence towards a fatal termination. But let not the practitioners be daunted or discouraged. The more vigorous the form the disease assumes, the more zealously should it be met. The most prompt and energetic measures are then indispensable. The strength and quantity of the bayberry must be increased—two or three tea-spoonsfull of the third preparation must be added and injected into the bowels. In urgent cases they should be used every ten minutes. Half that quantity of the third preparation, with a wine-glass full of the bayberry tea may be taken alternately as often as the injections are here prescribed. This course should be faithfully pursued until the purging and watery rumblings subside. Then the stimulating injections, once in half an hour, will be sufficient, but the potation must be faithfully continued.

Warm flannel, warm stones, friction, &c., with the stimulating poultices, or cataplasms, not only to the wrists and ankles, but on the inside of the thighs and on the stomach and bowels, will, in all extreme cases, be indispensable. The course we have prescribed must be persevered in. Nothing should divert the attention of physician or nurse for a single moment. Negligence and inattention, for a little season, may prove fatal. Many patients, by faithful perseverance in such a course, have been recovered from the most hopeless and terrifying condition.

Suffer me to admonish every practitioner not to abandon his patient without a zealous effort to rescue him from the grim monster. Do not leave him to sink a prey to death without resistance. Few nurses can be safely trusted. [Many have so little fortitude, and so little knowledge of the plain and simple laws of animalization, and are so inveigled with a blind superstitious idea of every thing being subservient to

absolute Mahomedan fatality, they have so little conception of the connection subsisting between causes and effects that they themselves, and their stupid friends, decline the use of means, or, if they do something, occasionally, when the notion takes them, they cannot be prevailed upon to proceed faithfully with determined resolution to use the means indispensable for the removal of the disease and recovery of health. It is no place here to take sides with the metaphysical hair-splitting of theological disputants, but our conception of the providential system of government pervades the universe, is equidistant from fate and chance. The dispensations of Providence consist in a development of a system of means and ends involving, in their nature, the responsibilities of intelligent beings. The neglect of endeavoring to employ rational means for the removal of the disease, is a species of indirect sin that involves the wilful neglect, criminality and guilt for which no reasonable apology can be offered. As the disease begins to yield, our efforts in the administration of means should be gradually diminished. We may recede to the milder and more gentle treatment with which it was proper to commence with the former state or first stage of the disease.

It should be particularly noted that, in all collapsed cases of Cholera, the liver and kidneys are interrupted in their respective functional operations for some time, say one, two, or three days—they do not carry on a regular secretion. This circumstance will always require some attention. Means should be employed to excite action and produce a healthy secretion in those organs as soon as practicable.—For this purpose, the best article I am acquainted with is the *Zanthoxylum*; that is, the pulverized bark of the tooth-ache tree.

This is a very excellent diffusible and very permanent stimulant. It may be given in doses of half a tea-spoonful once in three or four hours. It may be combined with much advantage with the tonic bitters. In fact I have used it extensively and found it an excellent medicine in every stage of the disease. It may be used freely

It is a species of the *Zanthoxylum* or **Prickly Ash**, which may be substituted for it, though the *Zanthoxylum* of the Pharmacopia of the United States is undoubtedly preferable.

**Lobelia-seed** and **African Cayenne**, equal parts, formed into pills with paste, or liquorice, or honey, or any thing of the kind that will form the powders into a mass of a suitable consistence, or the same medicine given in any other form, two or three times in a day, in doses sufficient to occasion a little nausea, have been found to be remarkably effectual to excite a regular and healthy action in the liver and kidneys.

A stubborn constipation of the bowels, in the latter stages of Cholera, is a circumstance of frequent occurrence. The **Butter-nut** syrup or pills, or the bitter root, are remedies of great value. In such cases they may be resorted to with much advantage. Given in moderate doses, these articles act promptly and powerfully upon the liver and kidneys. The constipation will soon yield, and the good effect be fully evident. I am convinced that these medicines, nor any other, should not be given in drastic potions. By such indiscretion, instead of producing a salutary action, and regulating the bowels, we should occasion an intestinal commotion and derangement more difficult to control than the malady we are endeavoring to remove.

A feverish affection may always be expected to follow all violent cases of Cholera. If the patient be what is usually denominated of a plethoric habit, the fever will appear in a form similar to the bilious or autumnal epidemics common in our climate. If the patient be of a delicate nervous constitution, the fever that supervenes will generally be of a typhoid type. These fevers should be treated much in the same way as if they had commenced independent of any connexion of preceding Cholera.

Every means must be taken to strengthen and restore the debilitated patient. Nourishing injections, frequently used, as in the second stage of Cholera, have been found peculiarly serviceable. Tonics and stimulants should be administered liberally. If this course be faithfully persisted in,

the fever will soon begin to yield. Generally, by the third or fourth day, which, in common cases, will be the sixth or seventh day from the first attack. The patient's appetite returns, and all the signs of a speedy and perfect victory begins to appear.

As a little indiscreet indulgence and premature exposure may cause a relapse, the utmost caution should be rigidly enjoined, and a prudent use of means persisted in until health be perfectly restored. All imprudent indulgences and irregularities in diet, should be scrupulously avoided. Let the recovering patient listen to the admonitions of a friend who here ventures to insist that he be temperate in all things.

CINCINNATUS.

## MATERIA MEDICA.

**Materia Medica** consists of such materials as are used in medicine. The botanic Physician limits himself almost exclusively to vegetable substances. These have been found more safe and efficient in removing disease than all the dangerous trumpery of the mineral schools. Vegetable medicine is congenial with the nature of man. In common life they are easily obtained, easily prepared, and are less offensive to the taste than the mysterious compounds of the druggist's shop.

Vegetables suitable for medical purposes are such as have the most salutary effects and yet produce the least disturbance in the animal functions.—Many of the chemical and mineral preparations of the apothecary are known to be the most destructive poisons, and many others are totally unsuitable to be used as medicine. Since we became fully acquainted with the peculiar and distinguishing features of Dr. Samuel Thomson's system of botanic medicine, whatever may have been the opinions of others, we have never considered the enlargement of the number of remedial articles, far beyond his original prescriptions, as being a matter of much consequence. The botanic practitioner should first make himself well acquainted with the fundamental principles of the Thomsonian system, as laid down in his *New Guide*. In acquiring

this knowledge, he may derive much assistance from his Cholera chapter and his chapter of life now appended to the original work. Having thus commenced at the foundation, in the next place he should be well provided with what is strictly called Thomsonian medicine, have them prepared in the best manner, and carefully preserved from injury, from dirt, wind, rain, &c., by which their medical qualities might be greatly impaired.

In the management of all serious forms of disease, we prefer the identical remedies Dr. Thomson has directed, prepared, and administered, precisely according to his instructions.—In our practice, we cannot dispense with them. In enlarging the materia medica, nothing like reformation is intended. We only design to follow up and carry out the system, by providing ways and means of extending the practical benefits resulting from it. There are many things, in cases of extreme emergency, which might be safely and successfully substituted in the room and place of some others of a superior or more established character.

#### AGRIMONY.

The technical or official name given to this plant, in the Dublin Pharmacopoeia, is [*Agrimonia Eupatoria*.]

Agreeably to the arrangements of the New Edinburgh Dispensatory, it belongs to the class Dodecandria Dyginia. It grows plentifully in the State of Ohio, and is a native of our own country. This plant, which rises from one to two or three feet in height, yields, when fresh gathered, a pleasant smell, which is greatly diminished by drying. The top, like most other herbage, is spoiled by the frost and totally destroyed by winter, but the root is perennial, and survives through the changing seasons of the year. Its interruptedly pinnate [wing-shaped] leaves are rough and hairy. It bears a yellow blossom, which appears in July and August. It bears on its top a bristly burr that often gets fast to the clothes of those who walk where it grows.—Hence the names of stickwort, cucklee-weed, and cucklebur. It is found in abundance in gardens, corn-fields, way-sides, meadows, and woodland shades.—

The herb has a bitterish astringent taste. The leaves and stalks, together with the closed flowers, afford a yellow decoction, which, when previously impregnated with a diluted solution of Bismuth, imparts a beautiful and permanent gold color to animal wool.

The roots and tops are both used in medicine; they are mildly astringent but the roots are more binding to the bowels than the leaves. Weakly persons, whose stomachs are debilitated, have often found much benefit by strong tea made of the entire plant sweetened with honey or loaf sugar, used as a drink several times a day.—It has been used to advantage for stopping of blood, for laxity of the bowels, chronic, lingering diarrhea, made into a tea with whey, it affords a diet agreeable to the taste, and gives strength to a weak stomach. Previous to the use of this, or any other tonic remedy, the stomach should be cleansed, and the system prepared by a course of medicine. Without these precautions we cannot expect much benefit, and oftentimes, by neglecting so judicious a measure, a person might receive an injury. A wise shepherd will not lock his sheepfold while the wolf is among his sheep. He will first expel the enemy and then repair the wounds and provide for the safety of his flock. If we would rouse a debilitated system, we must first evacuate the stomach by an emetic, and the bowels by injections, and produce a determination to the skin; then he may administer tonics with better prospects of success.

#### ALDER, BLACK.

[*PRINOS VERTICILLATUS*.]

This is a small tree, or rather a large shrub or bush, a native of the United States, grows to the greatest perfection in moist meadows and other low marshy grounds, particularly in swampy lands. The bark is of a dark colour externally, but the inner bark is a deep yellow, and, when chewed, has a pungent, bitter and astringent taste, and turns the spittle into a saffron hue.—It bears red berries that have much of the bitter quality. Infused in wine, they have been used as a tonic bitter. A

strong tea of the leaves, or bark, or berries, has long been accounted useful in cutaneous affections. It is given internally, and employed externally for eruptions on the skin. Excessive doses nauseate the stomach. The habitual use will prove laxative. It has been used in cases of ague and cases of general debility, instead of the Peruvian Bark, that was formerly employed to a great extent. It may be used with safety in all cases where tonic bitters are advisable, and where stronger tonics would be altogether improper. The stomach and bowels should be evacuated, as stated under the preceding article. This and the agrimony, separately or combined, may be given in powders, as a restorative of debilitated habits.

### BEACH DROPS.

[OROBANCHE VIRGINIANA.]

The production of Beach-drops is a singular phenomenon in nature. They are found only beneath the beech tree, springing up among the roots. It is known by different names, as Virginia Broom-rape, and also Cancer-root, from the circumstance of the bulbous fibrous root. On this stands a scaly leafless stalk from six or eight, to ten or twelve inches in height. The stalks or stems are a dusky, pale mixed color, or rather an earthy brown, with variegated streaks of a redish dark purple cast—some are quite white and some shaded, and dappled with white, yellow, red, and purple.

The smell is not pleasant—the taste rather nauseous—its most sensible medical quality is its astringency. When recently gathered, it is powerful. It loses, like most other plants, much of its virtue, by drying and being long kept. As an external remedy for foul and cancerous ulcers, applied as a wash, a fomentation, or in form of powder, it has undoubtedly been of particular service. A strong tea of the whole plant has had a happy effect for a wash and gargle for sore mouth and throat. It has been fresh gathered and bruised thoroughly, and applied to ill-conditioned sores, with very happy effect. A strong decoction injected into the bowels, they being previously

evacuated, has been found serviceable in dysentary—injected into the vagina, it gives at least temporary relief in Leucorrhœa, or *flour albus*, a weakening discharge to which females are unfortunately subjected. We have very little confidence in its internal use; our bayberry and pond-lilly roots are undoubtedly preferable. Its use otherwise, as we have prescribed, has been so tested, that we think it has some claim to medical attention. There is one case in which we have never tried it, but it is so recommended by that respectable herbalist, Dr. Samuel Henry, that we deem it proper to state the following preparation:—

“In four quarts of water put eight ounces of beech-drops—boil it down to two quarts, strain the decoction, and sweeten with loaf sugar. After proper evacuations, patients subject to the rose, or erysipelas, called sometimes St. Anthony's fire, &c., may take a tea cup full of this four times a day—young patients a less quantity, and keep linen rags, wet with the decoction, before it is sweetened, over the inflamed part, until perfectly well.” Children subject to galling in warm weather, may be benefitted by a local application in the same manner.

### ROSESET.

The many names conferred on this plant, is a plain intimation that it is pretty extensively known. It is called Thoroughwort, Thoroughstem, Thoroughstalk, Feverwort, Crosswort, Wild Camomile, Indian Sage, and other colonial names. It is the [*Eupatorium Perfoliatum*] of the Pharmacy of the United States. It is a native of our own country, and found in abundance in the Northern, Middle, and Western States. It grows in meadows and open moist woodlands, and by way sides, and vacated fields. It rises from two to three and four feet in height, with a spreading top of several branches. Its long, rough, dull, green leaves, about an inch wide at the stem that grows up through them, are from three to four, or five or six inches in length, tapering from the stalk to their point. It blossoms in July and August, until frost nips it. The blossoms are of a dull obscure white. A weak tea, drank warm



and several times repeated, promotes perspiration. A strong decoction, in which a small handful of the leaves and flowers are boiled in a quart of water to a pint, taken warm and repeated every half hour, is a very certain emetic.— But its use is of more consequence when the above infusion is taken cold; they may be used in powder, or made into a saturated tincture with proof spirits. In these forms it is used successfully in intermittent fever. Dr. Anderson speaks of it as a valuable medicine. He appeals to Dr. Barton and Dr. Hosack as being acquainted with its efficacy in the New York Almshouse. In the treatment of the yellow fever, he adduces the highly respectable authority of Dr. Hosack and Dr. Barton, who, after proper evacuations, placed almost exclusive dependence on sudorifics, (or sweating medicines,) and, among this class of remedies, a tea of Eupatorium was esteemed of much value. In the epidemic spotted fever, a malignant pleurisy or cold plague, that prevailed so extensively in the winter of 1812-13, sweating medicines were more used than formerly in New York. The Eupatorium was resorted to, and its sudorific, its tonic, and its cordial properties, were clearly demonstrated, and much benefit derived from its use. Dr. Barton, a notorious friend of botanic medicine, confidently asserts its well-tested efficacy in various forms of disease of the skin, such in particular as arise from, or are attended with, debility. As a diuretic and tonic, it has been found useful in *ascites*, or dropsical swellings of the abdomen, and in *anasarcous* or dropsical swelling of the limbs. A fully saturated tincture in alcohol, is esteemed best when used as a tonic. A weak decoction, when used as a diuretic, or to produce sweating. See Dr. Thomson's account of this in his New Guide. We have been more particular in describing it, that it may be universally known.

### BURGUNDY PITCH.

By this we mean the Pix Burgundica, or Burgundy Pitch of the Pharmacopœias. It is found in most of the medical shops in our country. The Pitch, spread on strong linen cloth, or thin pliable leather, with a warm knife or spa-

tula, and applied to a weak back, is strengthening. Applied between shoulder blades, it relieves an habit spasmodic cough. This plaster is frequently worn on the side and breast to relieve pains, &c. Should it be found a little too hard and brittle, a small portion of lard may be melted with it, and the melted pitch be poured into cold water, and worked and pushed by the hand as a cordwainer works wax.

### BUTTERFLY WEED.

Called also pleurisy-root, flax-root, white-root, silk-weed, and swainwort. Technically named [*Asclepias decumbens*, and *Asclepias tuberosa*.— This elegant perennial plant is commonly seen in meadows, by the way-side along fences, in stubble-fields. It grows in almost every variety of soil capable of tillage. In the month of July and August, it may be distinguished at a distance by its brilliant golden blossoms. From a carrot-shaped brownish-colored root, of considerable size, it sends up a number of stalks the size of a pipe-stem, and often larger, which rise from two to three feet in height. The stalks are round and woolly, of a reddish brown color on the sunny side. The leaves that ornament its branching top, are rather spear or tongue-shaped, and stand irregularly disposed, having a short foot stalk covered with a fine down on the under surface.

Dr. Cox observes, concerning this indigenous plant, that "the umbels are compact at the extremities of the branches, and formed like the common silk-weed, but differing from it in the coloring of the flowers, being of a beautiful bright orange color, while those of the silk-weed are of a pale, purplish hue; they are distinguished by their size and brilliancy from all the flowers of the field. These are succeeded by long slender pods, containing seeds which have a delicate kind of silk attached to them. This is probably the only variety of *Asclepias* that is destitute of a milky juice." This is a circumstance worthy of particular attention.

This root has been so long and extensively known among botanic phre-

ians as a remedy of superior efficacy in pleurisy, that a further description is deemed unnecessary. In catarrhal and pulmonic affections, it has been used extensively in Virginia, the Carolinas, and many other parts of the United States, with great success. Made into a decoction, and drank as other herb drinks are commonly taken, it manifests a powerful determination to the skin and induces a copious perspiration. This tea, sweetened with honey and drank freely, or the root finely pulverized and taken frequently in teaspoonful doses, operates as an expectorant, loosening phlegm and relieving cough. In colds, coughs and beginning fever, it has sustained a high reputation. It gently expels wind, eases pain of the stomach occasioned by flatulence and indigestion. Hence the vulgar name of wind-root. Dr. Henry. Dr. Bigelow, and others, have given an engraving of this plant. Drs. Cox, Thatcher, Parker, Chapman, and many others, speak of it in high terms of recommendation. Used to a considerable extent, it has a mildly laxative effect on the bowels, and is well calculated to regulate intestinal irregularities. Hence its use in disenteric complaints, and other fluxes, cholics, &c. In bowel complaints, in children, it has frequently been found a valuable medicine. It is one of those safe and inoffensive medicines that may proceed, accompany, or follow after, a course of medicine, and greatly facilitates the operation of other means designed to provoke sweating, or dejections by stool or urine.

FROM THE GOSPEL ANCHOR.

### THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

In looking back a few centuries, on the progress which has been made in almost every department of knowledge, we cannot but perceive how much of it has been effected by the art of printing. This great invention, by multiplying copies of works with an almost magic facility, and at an expense which, when compared with prices paid in former times for manuscripts, appears as nothing, has not only increased to an incalculable degree the number of professed students and lovers of literature, but has communicated the benefits of in-

struction to all classes and conditions of men. It has led forth learning from the ancient places of her seclusion, the academy, the cloister, and the dark grove, and has introduced her to the gay, the busy, and the poor; so that she now walks abroad in the streets and the highways, and over the fields, and converses freely with men in crowded marts, in splendid courts, in hostile camps, and by the cheerful fireside.—Books are no longer the exclusive luxuries of the wealthy; they are no longer only to be met with chained to the rusty shelves of a monastic library, or clasped and hung to the girdles of churchmen; they lie on cottage window seats—they are in the cabins of ships, and in the tents of our soldiery—they are the familiar companions of the female sex—and they are scattered among the play things of children.—Wisdom is no longer the torch of the Grecian game, passed down from separate hand to hand; it may rather be compared to the sacred fire, kindled, as all oriental travellers tell us, on the birth-day of our Savior, in the Church of the Sepulchre, at Jerusalem, which is no sooner exposed to view, than the whole mass of devotees rush on to illumine their tapers at its flame, and, in an instant, a thousand lights are glancing through the temple.

The Press has, in short, sent forth such vast quantities of writings into the world, that it may be doubted whether any cause of destruction could obliterate these labors of the mind, which would not also terminate the human race. Towards the accomplishment of such an object, a second Omar could effect nothing.

Its power is of course immense, both for good and for evil. It disseminates opinions of all kinds, on every subject, and administers poison as well healthy nutriment. It is not surprising, therefore, that attempts should often have been made to restrain its liberty, and limit its power, not only by those interested persons who have feared that it would deprive them of unrighteous authority, but by the sincerely virtuous, who have dreaded its corrupting effects on the morals of society.

The Church of Rome began very ear-

ly to prevent the reading of certain books, and, about the year 1550, published a list of them, called an Index Expurgatorius, which has since been enlarged as occasion required. Even in Protestant countries, overseers have been appointed by law, to peruse all writings intended for the public, and with authority to lighten or suppress, as they should think proper. Such a body of licensers existed and exercised their powers in England, till a little more than a century ago, when it was abolished by act of Parliament. At present, although any person in that kingdom may print what he pleases, he is liable to punishment if the book is found to contain sentiments which the law pronounces pernicious.

I shall offer, as briefly as possible, a few considerations, to show that no restraint whatever should be imposed on the freedom of the press, but that it should be left unquestioned and entire.

With regard to those countries in which it has been shackled the most, it will be necessary to say but few words. Their example is proof sufficient, that the effect of literary despotism is ignorance and degradation. Their inhabitants are sunk in deep superstition; and when they talk of liberty, they hardly understand the meaning of the word.—The illiterate believe any thing and every thing; a great part of the higher orders believe nothing; and the remainder do not know what to believe. All writings of a bold and manly character are withheld from the people; and it has been said that there is hardly a good work of morality or devotion which has not been prohibited by the Roman Index.

Nor has the licensing system, as it has been pursued in more free and enlightened parts of the world, any thing to recommend it. The licensers are men, with the prejudices, interests, and passions of men, and will never be wholly impartial in their judgment. They may be wise men, and good men, but will not certainly be infallible. They will have their systems and their theories, on government and morals and religion, and will hardly grant an *imprimatur* to that author who writes against their party or their church. And yet the author may be right and they themselves

wrong. They will be continually committing mistakes, and some of the mistakes will be of vital importance.—With the best intentions possible, they may and must often misconceive the forms of fundamental truth. “If come to prohibiting,” says that great man, one only of whose praises it is that he wrote *Paradise Lost*. “If come to prohibiting, there is not any more likely to be prohibited than truth itself, whose first appearance to our eyes, bleared and dimmed with prejudice and custom, is more unsightly and unpalatable than many errors; even as the person of many a great man is slight and contemptible to see to.” And when truth is acknowledged and permitted to pass, is it not humbled and disgraced by the permission? Can it not walk forth freely without asking leave, and going in leading-strings, and wearing a mark and a collar, like a slave or a dog?

And now let us consider the ~~new~~ restraint which has been attempted on the liberty of the Press, by punishing the authors or venders of pernicious books, and ask what good it has done? Let us reflect a little on some characteristics of human nature, and we shall see what harm it will do. Will it not be the invariable consequence of inflicting punishment on the publishers of bad books, that general attention will be excited to those books, and an uncommon desire be entertained to purchase and read them? And will not human ingenuity find out ways enough, in spite of all obstacles, to print and sell them? And, when they are read under these excitements; will not the impression which they make on the mind be far greater than in ordinary cases, and will not their mischievous effects be doubled? There is no doubt of it.

The sympathy and curiosity produced by a judicial condemnation, will both increase the numbers of the obnoxious work, and induce people to read with interest what they would otherwise have soon thrown by in weariness or disgust. This is no theory, no unfounded speculation. It is established by facts which have recently occurred in England. To mention no others, there is the case of the bookseller Carlisle

He printed and published some of Paine's infidelity. Half of the trash would have grown yellow on his shelves, if the arm of authority had not troubled it. He was prosecuted, condemned, fined, and imprisoned. And what was the consequence? Carlisle was regarded as a persecuted man, and Paine became a popular author. The book rose into sudden demand; one of the imprisoned publisher's family took up the profitable business of selling it; means were found of eluding the vigilance of the law; and low and ignorant people taught themselves to question the genuineness of the Scriptures, and abuse the religion of Christ. Mark the difference between the effects of this and the opposite method of procedure. In the country where the publisher of Paine's works was fined and imprisoned, those works can be purchased in any quantities, and with ease; but here, in our own country, where no man would be meddled with for publishing them, there is scarcely a copy to be found, nobody feels any desire to read them, and it is, therefore, no one's interest to keep them for sale. And I am sure that the evil will not be cured, but rather increased, by punishment and coercion.

If it be inquired, How is the evil to be counteracted? I answer, by the remedies of truth, reason and argument. If the pernicious treatise be popular, let a popular treatise oppose it; if it pretend to be learned, let learning be enlisted on the other side. Is error so subtle that it cannot be refuted? Is virtue so foolish, or so indolent, that she cannot or will not defend herself and her votaries? Is licentiousness so bold and successful that she cannot be shamed? Then shame on the virtuous, and shame on the pious, and shame on the learned; if their principles, and their education, and their scholarship, amount to nothing more than this, why, shame on it all! But it is not so; there are able champions in the cause of faith and righteousness, and they have conquered, and they will go on to conquer, and, with them, will fight all the honorable feelings, and high aspirations, and holy thoughts of man—all the pure and endearing relations of society and of home, and

order, justice, decency, hope, and gratitude.

With regard to speculative inquiries, there are few which I would even attempt to discourage by any disapprobation. Many a truth do we discover, only by the examination of many falsehoods. To prove that one system is tenable, it is often necessary to show that others which have been offered, are groundless; just as some theorems of Euclid are established, by reducing to an absurdity every position, which contradicts them. The seeker after truth, like the hero of the fairy tale, is often obliged to pass through successive scenes of deception, and encounter numerous shadowy dangers and temptations before he can arrive at the inner apartment of the castle, and dissolve the enchantment.

There are few theories, too, which do not contain much that is profitable to be known; for they who have the ingenuity to advance them, will generally say something useful, if it be only for their own refuting. In their very wanderings they will point out beacons and land-marks which will denote, with increased accuracy, the pleasant country and the safe road. "If the men be leading scismatics," says Milton again, "what withholds us but our sloth, our self-will, and distrust in the right cause, that we do not give them gentle meetings and gentle dismissions; that we debate not, and examine the matter thoroughly, with liberal and frequent audience; if not for their sakes, yet for our own? Seeing no man who hath tasted learning, but will confess the many ways of profiting by those, who, not contented with the stale receipts, are able to manage and set forth new positions to the world. And were they but as the dust and cinders of our feet, so long as in that notion, they may yet serve to polish and brighten the armory of truth, even for that respect they were not utterly to be cast away."

Let then opinion meet opinion on all grounds of debate and controversy.—Let system combat system, and theory wrestle with theory. Let the Press work on with all its activity; throw not over it a single fetter. Who says that truth is powerless and friendless, and cannot prevail? She must prevail.—

Away with your fears of heresy and heretics, and your grave talk about latitudinarianism, and disorganizing tenets, and the destruction of faith, and the unhinging of society! Such alarms indicate but a slight estimation of that which should be most firmly trusted in: **TRUTH.** Truth will prevail at last—or there is no such thing as truth.

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## THE RECORDER.

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### COLUMBUS,

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SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1833.

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We will not forget to mention the obligations conferred upon us by many who have forwarded the labors of their pens on purpose for publication. It is to be hoped that the same friends of the good cause, with many others, will attend to the making their important communications. As far as we can possibly ascertain facts, Thomsonian Remedies still maintain an increasing reputation in combatting the Cholera.—

Botanic remedies have every where excelled the mineral practice. The Thomsonian mode of treatment has most unquestionably excelled all other ways and means that have been attempted for the removal of this destructive malady. We are confident, if the premonitory symptoms of disease were only seasonably attended to, that instances of the fatal results of the prevailing epidemic would be very rare. Some few cases of Cholera have recently occurred in this place. Out of all the cases that have occurred, there have been but seven deaths up to this date, July 23d. The first was on the 14th instant. These were adult persons. In the mean time two or three infant children have died of the bowel complaint common at this season of the year. The weather has been for some

days intensely warm. Many have premonitory symptoms of the epidemic, but, by seasonable application of appropriate remedies, soon obtained relief. What a day may bring forth, we tend not to determine. We believe that, in a great majority of cases, Cholera is curable, but seldom without seasonable efforts. At the same time there are many cases in which it commences where other malignant diseases terminate in death.

Subscribers will please to take notice that any irregularities or mistakes that may have occurred in forwarding the Recorder, will all be punctually rectified, whenever the Publisher shall be fairly apprised of the fact in any such case. No one has been negligently neglected. Any numbers engaged by conveyance, so as to be unfit for binding, will be made good at the application of the individual to whom they were sent, so long as they can be supplied without breaking full sets.—We intend the second volume shall appear weekly, in an improved condition, containing 16 pages in each number, the size of which will probably be somewhat enlarged. If the sphere of our patronage should continue to enlarge, we design it shall sustain deservedly the reputation of a cheap, useful, and popular publication.

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### ITEMS OF ECONOMY, ARTS, &c.

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**How to make Green Wax.**—Take ten ounces of bees wax, melt it, add one ounce of verditer, let the mixture be large enough as it will immediately solidify; stir it well, and add one quarter of an ounce of rosin: it will be sufficiently hard and fit for use.

[Kennebec Fair



# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"

"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HERSEY, *Senior Editor.*

VOL. I ] COLUMBUS, AUGUST 3, 1833. [No. 24.

FROM THE OHIO MONITOR, JULY 31.

**CHOLERA.**—The punishment of God, with which he is now scourging the nations of the earth, is fallen upon Columbus! Much mercy is, indeed, mingled with the punishment! It has been long deferred. The rod has long been held up to view before the stripe has been inflicted! We have had time to prepare, so far as human preparations avail, for the pestilence, and avail ourselves of the skill which may be acquired in the sufferings of others. Probably the mortality has been less in proportion to the cases of attack than has occurred in any other place, and some cases as desperate, apparently, as any others have been cured. The number of recoveries has done much to mitigate the terror usually attendant on this awful malady, but, withal, it is a sore chastisement! Death, in this complaint, appears in all its horrors—sudden, agonizing, and awful. Of the fourteen citizens who have died, five died within six hours after they were actually known to be sick, though it is probable that a slight diarrhoea may have preceded in all cases. In some, perhaps the most of the cases, persons of good constitutions and as temperate as lived here, have been hurried away. It is probable, however, that there had been an indulgence in green indigestible vegetables, or a neglect of the premonitory symptoms, in all cases.

As we believe the Botanic method of treating the Cholera is far more successful than any other, we will not be wanting to the cause of humanity nor to our sense of duty in withholding that opinion from our readers. Slow as prejudices are in giving way to new improvements, there has been such a change in favor of the Botanic mode of treatment, that it is for distant readers, and not for town readers, that we present this information. It is in those towns who have not yet had the Cholera, whose attention we would call to

the Thomsonian Remedies, or those Botanic Remedies which are but another modification of them. The consideration of one fact is enough to put any one on a right turn of reasoning on this subject. It is that the patient must be soon helped, or he will be dead. The operation of the "third preparation" [Botanic] is often in ten minutes, causing him to break out into a profuse sweat, and shortly to relieve his cramps and all other pains. Let it be remembered that but one case in this town has failed in the Botanic treatment, where that treatment has not been disturbed by other doctors; but two, when there was this joint attendance, and the list that has been cured shows itself in numbers below.

The panic occasioned by the Cholera is considerable. Probably seven or eight hundred, or nearly one-fourth of the people of the town, have fled, which makes a sensible diminution of business. Among those that remain, there is so little belief that the Cholera is contagious, that there is no hesitation in well persons helping the sick. Physicians are prompt to attend their call.

We have taken great pains to collect correct information concerning the following cases; also, have personally observed some of them. A more correct account, we venture to say, will not be presented; though it would be incredible to say that it is strictly accurate in relation to the character of the complaint. We class all the Physicians of the old practice, who are licensed, as "scientific," and both the Thomsonian and other Botanic practitioners as "Botanic."

## BOTANIC.

**DEAD**—Josiah Stagg, Sophia Brickle, [visited by Scientific Doctors—Hisler, a young child, attended by both kinds of Doctors.]

**RECOVERED**—Ira Bronson, Franklin

Vauhorn, Mary Seras, Hannah Trueman, Mrs. Waters, Mrs. Glover, John Skates, Adaline Johnson, Augustus Platt, Anne Lewis, David Jones, Thomas Mann, George McDermoth, John B. Compston, Widow Downs, James Skillinger, John Ream, Mrs. Turner, Eliza Combs, John S. Kneeland, Mrs. Britton, Mr. Gaver, Hiram Matthews, Mrs. Morgan, Mr. McMullen.

#### SCIENTIFIC.

**DEAD**—Mrs. Margaret McHenry, Mrs. Margery Bigwood, Mrs. Maria Worley, Mrs. Mills, Mrs. West, William John, Henry Jewett.

There was a son of Mr. Hiler died, who had no physician.

**RECOVERED**—John Walcutt's three children, Mrs. Beach, Charles Dermott, James Canfield, Mr. O'Hail, Mrs. Kennedy, James Bigwood, William Britton.

To this list may be added that which the Keeper of the Ohio Penitentiary has politely furnished us.

P. S. On Monday, Mrs. Dickson died of the Cholera at Franklinton, and Mrs. Weaver at Worthington. There is little doubt but that the vicinity will be visited in close succession to this town. We heard of but one new case yesterday.

#### Fourth Report of the Board of Health.

The Board of Health announce seven deaths from Cholera, since the last report on the morning of the 24th inst., 3 adults and 2 children among the citizens, and 2 in the Penitentiary; making in all fourteen deaths from the disease.

It is now thirteen days since the first case of Cholera took place in town, and during that time, 14 deaths have occurred in a population of upwards of 3,000 souls. The whole number of cases is not known; but the mortality has been much less, it is believed, than has been experienced in any other place where the disease has prevailed for the same length of time.

P. SISSON,  
J. W. CAMPBELL,  
S. PARSONS,  
J. BUTTLES,  
M. B. WRIGHT,

Board of Health.

Columbus, July 27—8 o'clock, A. M.

#### Fifth Report of the Board of Health.

The Board of Health report the death of two citizens by Cholera, since the last report, William John and Henry Jewett. Two deaths have also occurred in the Penitentiary in the same time.

From all the information obtained on the subject, it is believed the number of cases of Cholera has been gradually diminishing for the last two or three days, and that no new case has occurred this morning.

P. SISSON,  
J. W. CAMPBELL,  
S. PARSONS,  
J. BUTTLES,  
M. B. WRIGHT,

Board of Health.

Columbus, July 29—8 o'clock A. M.

#### OHIO PENITENTIARY.

Monday Morning, July 29, 1833.

I hereby certify, that the whole number of cases of Cholera, since the instant, at the Penitentiary, are as follows, viz:—

July 12th, 2 cases; 19th, 1; 20th, 1; 21st, 1; 23d, 1; 24th, 2; 25th, 1; 26th, 5; 27th, 6; 28th, 2; 29th, 1. Total, 24.

Whole number of Convicts, 243.

And that the whole number of deaths are as follows:

July 20th, 1 death; 24th, 1; 26th, 1; 27th, 2—Total 5.

Total number of cases 24.

Do. deaths 5.

W. W. GALT, K. O. P.

#### OHIO PENITENTIARY.

July 30, 1833.

In consequence of the many exaggerated reports which have been put in circulation, relative to the prevalence of Cholera in the Penitentiary, and the number of deaths which it has occasioned, I deem it my duty to state, for the information of the public, the true situation of the Institution as regards sickness and mortality. There have been 29 cases of Cholera: the first on the 12th of July—and seven deaths. The constitutions of six of the deceased had been broken down by previous diseases and dissipation, and the others had been laboring under diarrhoea several days.

The disease, therefore, cannot be considered as having been malignant or unmanageable. Beside the perfect cases of Cholera, from one-third to one half of the Convicts have been seized with the premonitory symptoms, indicating an approach of the disease, which, by a timely application of remedies, were easily recovered.

### RECAPITULATION.

Whole number of Convicts in the Prison	- - -	203
Perfect cases of Cholera	-	29
Cholera, in its forming stages, from	- - -	70 to 100
Whole number of deaths	-	7

The guards and attendants upon the sick, have suffered no other indisposition than fatigue and watchfulness would necessarily create.

W. W. GALT, K. O. P.

P. S. Three have since died, making TEN on Wednesday morning.

We have this day [29th July] been favored with a copy of the Report of the Board of Health, which we deem a favor.

The following unofficial Circular, (though we have received no request to insert it,) we think will prove useful information and advice to our readers :

### TO THE CITIZENS OF COLUMBUS AND ITS VICINITY.

There is no longer any doubt of the prevalence of the Cholera in Columbus. The visitation has thus far been much tempered with mercy, and we have reason to hope that this merciful interposition will continue. We rejoice to see the composure with which it is met.—Our experience, thus far, has more than confirmed our confidence in the THOMSONIAN REMEDIES. We conscientiously recommend them to the public, and urge them, as they value life, to apply them promptly.

Nearly every case which has proved obstinate, has originated in improper indulgence in FRUIT OR VEGETABLES. We caution all to ABSTAIN ENTIRELY. It costs nothing to abstain, and it may save life.

Convalescent persons must be more cautious than those who have not been attacked. The least indulgence or ir-

regularity, is pernicious in the extreme, and nearly always proves fatal.

### DIRECTIONS.

Supply yourselves with the syrup, powders, and the third preparation of Lobelia, as put up together.

Take a little syrup three or four times a day, as a preventative.

If attacked with diarrhoea, take a wine-glass full without a moment's delay. If uneasiness continues, repeat as often as you think proper ; but lessen the quantity unless symptoms increase. If they do increase, put one spoonful of the powders in each dose.

If vomiting occurs more than once, give forthwith one tea-spoonful of the third preparation for an emetic. If thrown off before a full vomiting is effected, increase the dose and repeat it. If the stomach is too much irritated to retain the emetic a few minutes, give an injection made of warm water, a little syrup, and two tea-spoonful or more of the third preparation. Continue and repeat the injections, increasing the third preparation and powders without measure, until a free evacuation is obtained both ways.

Then give small and frequent doses of syrup, with a little No. 6, if you have it ; also, as the stomach can bear, a little hot tea, soup, or gruel. Use all measures possible to excite heat and action. Hot bricks, bottles, or other hot substances, laid around the person in bed, are indispensable. Always, both night and day, keep a few bricks in the fire, and keep dry fuel prepared, as well as candles, and every thing the mind can suggest to facilitate prompt and effectual application.

The remedy, if promptly applied, has always proved effectual, but delays are death.

There is no danger of overdoing in violent cases, or indeed any other, while the symptoms continue. All cases that have failed, have been for want of timely application and perseverance. Let every one repeat the watch word *Perseverance*. The most inexperienced may safely apply every article.

The design is to stimulate the stomach and bowels to a healthy action, and promote heat and perspiration.—

Guard against exposure or the slightest chill, after an attack, (even for a day or two,) as you would a knife at your heart. One is as fatal as the other.

Above all things, keep quiet, calm, and collected. A person recovering from a slight attack, should not attend to business for several days.

We firmly believe these are the means put into our hands by an all-wise Providence, to shield us from death; and we doubt not His blessing will attend their use.

We know our motives have been, are, and will be questioned—but we care not. We appeal to every man, woman and child, in Columbus, who has taken our remedies, or followed our prescriptions, to sustain us. We refer to them for proof. We have attended by ourselves or agents, many severe attacks of the Cholera, in its first stages, and we have lost none, except the case of Josiah Stagg, who was past help before we were called.—A thousand witnesses will testify that the syrup has not yet failed to check diarrhoea. These are facts:—let the people judge. JARVIS PIKE, & Co  
Columbus, July 24, 1833.

*Cholera.*—In Salem, Indiana, it appears that during about five weeks, commencing on the 1st of June, there were 62 deaths within the town, and 23 town citizens who had removed out of town had died. There were seven deaths of other complaints, during the same period. Several citizens of distinction were among the deceased, of whom were Mr. Allen, senior editor of the *Annotator*, and his wife. This is a sore mortality for a town whose population does not exceed a thousand persons.—*Ohio Monitor*.

#### FLIGHT TO THE COUNTRY.

Those who meditate a flight to the country, should bear in mind, that they already have the impress of the poison of Cholera on their systems, and are, perhaps, quite as likely to be taken down abroad as at home. Moreover, that the disease is more malignant and fatal in many places but a few miles out of the city than in it. There can, then, be no safety in flight, and no one should attempt it.—*Cin. Chron.*

CINCINNATI, JULY 27.

#### HEALTH OF THE CITY.

The report of interments in this city for the week ending at 12 o'clock Wednesday last, the 24th instant, gives the number of ninety-nine.

The actual number of deaths in the period, was probably something greater. The greatest mortality of the week was on Monday and Tuesday. Since Wednesday morning, there has been a decided abatement of the disease. The cases are not only fewer in number but yield more readily to medicines.—Within the last twenty-four hours, we have heard of but few deaths. Of the deaths reported within the week above referred to, we suppose about three-fourths to have been caused by the Cholera. Among the recent victims are some of our old and most valued citizens. Colonel Francis Carr, James Cobb, Mr. C. Carrack, Wilmot Stone, Dr. Jesse Smith, Mr. Thomas Mitchell, are of the number of the deceased.

At the Lane Seminary there have been a number of cases and three or four deaths. At Sharon, (15 miles north of this city,) and its vicinity, the Cholera has prevailed with great mortality. It seems to be gradually overspreading the State.

In Kentucky it is generally subsiding. Still further South, we hear but little of it. In Indiana, particularly in the town of Salem, the mortality has been most fearful. In the western part of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, the disease is prevailing, but not with any marked violence.

It may be well to remark that, in a great number of the deaths that have recently occurred in this city, the cause of the disease has been traced to neglect of the premonitory symptoms, or the almost criminal indulgence of the appetite in the use of unwholesome food.

“What did Mr. ——— die of?” asked a simple neighbor. “Of a complication of disorders,” replied his friend. “How do you describe that complication, my good sir?” “He died,” rejoined the other, “of two physicians, an Apothecary and a Surgeon.”

**THE RECORDER.****COLUMBUS,****SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1833.****TO OUR PATRONS.**

**GENTLEMEN :—**We are happy again to announce our gratitude to the multitude of our zealous friends who are busily and successfully engaged in the extension and promotion of the Thomsonian cause. It is indeed the cause of humanity. We congratulate you most cordially on the happy effects of a free press on the public mind. Through the medium of a free press, we can communicate to our great Botanic Institution those items of important intelligence that are daily crowding upon us. It is not long since we found many obstacles to prevent us from propagating many of the important truths which we esteem of vital consequence to the cause, otherwise than by private letters, or by oral communications.—When unreasonably and cruelly assaulted, and grievously persecuted, we were denied the opportunity of defence. The case is now so far altered, friends have been so multiplied, and the pages of a free press have been so extensively spread before an enlightened community, that the people are awakening from their long slumber, shaking off the shackles of a literary aristocracy, and indulging the exercise of a spirit of free inquiry. Our subscription list is continually enlarging, and we feel a full proportion of zeal to be useful.—We have already commenced publishing a number of the Recorder weekly. With the second volume, we intend to commence and continue to publish

weekly, and to improve in the quality of our paper. Having purchased a printing apparatus of our own, we calculate to employ the most accomplished workmen, that the Typography may make a more respectable appearance than it has heretofore made. We are determined to improve our editorial labors by increasing diligence. We are constantly accumulating more interesting materials for the edification of our subscribers, who have already become far more numerous than we had anticipated at the commencement of this work,

*Desultory Observations on Cholera, and Epidemic forms of Disease in general.*

1. It is a fact of general notoriety that many die, every year, in all quarters of the Globe, of the Cholera Morbus, and that no section of the United States has been entirely exempt from this distressful form of disease.

2. It has ever been a violent form of disease, if we may judge from its history. Its attacks, in most cases, have been sudden, surprising, and unexpected. It has ever been common for this disease to be preceded and accompanied by sour eructations, heartburn, windy rumblings in the bowels, and pain, with pain also in the stomach, and general commotion of all the intestines.

3. To this incipient stage, violent vomiting, or straining to vomit, and excessive looseness and purging have rapidly succeeded. These discharges have put on various appearances, according to the variety of predisposing incidents or exciting causes.

4. In ordinary cases of Cholera, the vomiting and purging has been that of a green, yellow or dark-colored bilious discharge, with severe griping pains, and often flatulent distentions of sto-



mach and bowels, and sour watery belchings.

5. "In India," says a late writer of some considerable eminence, "little or no bile is apparent in the stools; as they usually consist in a watery or clay-like matter, in the early stage of the disease."

6. The pulse is usually very quick and unequal—there is great thirst, and frequently a fixed acute pain about the region of the Naval. The disease, in its further progress, is accompanied by palpitations of the heart, coldness of the extremities, faintings, cold clammy sweats, an irregular and almost imperceptible pulse, great prostration of strength, cramps in the legs and thighs, and sometimes convulsions."

7. There is no part of the world that has always been exempt from this calamity. It has appeared in all climates, at all seasons of the year: but in the summer and autumnal months it is most frequent.

8. The *Cholera Infantum*, or Bowel Complaint of children, is only a species of Cholera peculiar to the tender days of infancy.

9. The Cholera Morbus occurs most frequently in warm climates, and particularly violent have been its ravages in the East Indies, "Where, of late," says Dr. Thomas, "it has prevailed epidemically, and under an highly aggravated form, and was probably owing to a peculiar state of the atmosphere."

10. This same intelligent writer informs us that, "by some practitioners, who were in India at the time of its [extraordinary] prevalence, it has been attributed to that irregularity of the seasons which prevailed at its commencement, and afterwards continued a great length of time."

11. Sudden and extraordinary changes of weather, from an unusual degree

of cold to a sudden and excessive degree of heat, have been the most common precursors of all our most destructive epidemic forms of disease. Occurrences of this kind have been noticed to be a special premonition of the approach of Cholera.

12. Receiving into the stomach raw crude substances, of a cold nature, and of course not easily digestible, such as green apples, cucumbers, melons, string beans, young potatoes, onions, parsnips, carrots, and wild fruits, that are brought plentifully to market, in all principal market towns, tempt many to great indiscretion in their use. Even ripe vegetables, of every description, are unwholesome; but a moderate discreet use of such as have come to a wholesome degree of maturity, is undoubtedly preferable to total abstinence.

13. All excessive changes in the habits of living, especially from a generous diet, to a low, watery, and unwholesome mode of subsistence, must be attended with unavoidable debility, dyspepsia, hypochondria, and Cholera *fright*, the worst of all diseases, will be apt to prevail in such families.

14. Rancid food, or any kind that might be apt to generate any acidity on the stomach, or that has been known heretofore to have produced that kind of effect, should be scrupulously avoided.

15. Strong mineral medicines, such as Emetic Tartar, Sulphate of Zinc or Copper; also, any of the drastic scouring purgatives, may produce pernicious consequences. Extravagant meals, an intemperate bowl, and indiscreet indulgences and excesses of any kind, predispose any individual to be affected by the general cause. A single dose of Calomel has proved an unmanageable agent in divers instances, and fallen

on the bowels with astonishing and most distressing violence.

16. Sydenham represents it as an epidemic form of complaint in his day, by stating to this effect—"It generally begins in *August*, and seldom reaches the first week in *September*, unless it be a spurious kind, which arises from excess; for, though this is cured in the same manner, yet it is a disease of another class."

17. In our own country Epidemics have a wider range, and I know of no modern period, when there was neither *Scarlatina*, *Dysentaria*, *Measles*, *Whooping Cough*, *Cholera Infantum*, nor epidemic *Fever* in some forms, *Bilious*, *Yellow*, *Typhoid*, or *Cholera Morbus*, prevalent in a greater or less degree of violence in some sections of these United States.

18. Sydenham, in describing *Cholera*, informs us that it discovers itself by *enormous vomitings*, and a voiding of vitiated humours by stool, with great trouble and difficulty. There is a violent pain, inflation and distention of the belly and intestines, as also a *cardialgia*, [heart-burn,] and thirst. The pulse is quick and frequent, small and unequal; there are heat, anxiety, and a most troublesome nausea, sweating, a contraction of the legs and arms, fainting, *coldness of the extreme parts*, and the like, which kill the patient in 24 hours.

19. A respectable writer, over whose labors a century has rolled, in describing this distressful affection, called *Cholera Morbus*, as it appeared in his day, observes—"Though this disease is generally preceded with acid, nidorous belchings, [smelling like roasting meat,] pungent and cardialgic pains in the stomach and intestines; yet, soon after, all of a sudden, and at the same instant, the vomiting and looseness make their attack. *The remains of the last meal are voided first*; afterwards *bilious humours*, mixed more or less with *mucus*; then those that are yellow, then *eruginous* [coppery] then *black*; often exceedingly *acid*; and almost corrosive, together with frequent eructations and wind, and sometimes blood itself."

20. "The returns of the evacuations are very frequent. Besides, there are

most acute, wringing, griping, gnawing, biting pains, with inflation and rumbling of the intestines, chiefly above the navel, and most racking cardialgias. As the disease increases, the thirst becomes great; the extreme parts grow cold; there is a palpitation of the heart, and then hiccough; the urine stops, and the body is covered with a cold sweat. It is common for the patient to swoon away, and to fall into terrible convulsions."

21. "There is no disease, except the *Plague* and *Pestilential Fevers*, that kills sooner than this, especially if it attacks old persons, or children, or such as are weakened with diseases." Hoffman observes, that "this disease requires the most speedy assistance."

22. From a general view of the subject, as we find it in the general records of disease, we discover that a diarrhoea, vomiting and morbid derangement of the stomach and bowels, have been the frequent concomitants of fever, and disease of almost every form. The *Black Vomit* of *Yellow Fever* has been a symptom of common occurrence in all violent cases of that terrible epidemic.

23. The *Epidemic Cholera* appears to be an aggravated and diversified form of that epidemic state of disease that has prevailed in various forms, at various times, in various parts of the world, under various denominations; for instance, *Plague*, *Malignant Putrid Fever*, *Cold Plague*, *Scarlatina*, *Malignant Dysentery*, *Yellow Fever*, *Putrid Bilious Fever*, and a long *et cetera*, as before noted, sec. 17.

24. The *Cholera*, in its epidemic form, has, in modern times, often commenced with a deadly attack, and progressed with a rapidity that has deprived the victim of any opportunity for timely efforts for resistance or relief.

25. Where there is the smallest prospect of rendering any service to the sick, the violent form of the disease should not dissuade us from a vigorous persevering practice; for many extremely hopeless cases, by resolution and perseverance, have been recovered by Thomsonian remedies. These remedies, it is undeniably certain, have been far more successful than any other to

which public confidence has been invited.

26. When practitioners have been engaged in the use of means that are known to have been successful in numerous other cases of a similar nature, and evidently attended with some present evidence of a salutary effect, when the pulse that had been suspended in their natural action, begin sensibly to move, the cold benumbed limbs gradually are growing warm, and the faltering tongue begins to utter distinct, articulate, though feeble sounds, let him not abandon the patient to careless unfaithful attendants, or remit for a moment his utmost efforts to recover the sufferer from his perilous situation.

27. Prompt and decisive measures, in all cases of Cholera, are indispensable. The stomach should be immediately and thoroughly cleansed by an emetic. Stimulating injections should be introduced into the rectum. Stimulants should be applied internally to the stomach, and externally to the stomach, bowels, and extremities, with friction and heat; should be rapidly and faithfully attended to as the nature of the case may require.

29. There will occasionally be found certain perverse stubborn individuals who will not be persuaded faithfully to use your remedies—such refractory individuals may righteously be abandoned, when there are other sufferers requiring attention who appear disposed faithfully to use the means that you may prescribe.

30. The occasional use of Kercuma, with the Cholera Syrup of Dr. Thomson, as prepared by Dr. John Thomson or by Dr. Nathan Hixon, or combined with No. 6, with regularity in diet, avoiding all excess of every kind, are among the best means of prevention with which we are acquainted. The medicine should be liberally used in every period of the complaint.

31. It is not our intention to enter minutely into a detail of the best mode of treatment—we speak in general terms—our principal design is to offer a few general desultory remarks upon the origin, phenomena, and nature of this desolating epidemic.

32. There is undoubtedly a certain specific state, constitution or condition

of the atmospheric air, arising from greater or lesser quantity of miasma, or azotic gas, possessed of a peculiar or specific kind or degree of violence, by which Cholera, Scarlet fever, and every other variety of form in which the epidemic state of disease prevails, is brought into being.

33. It is now ascertained to a certainty that one property or quality of the pestilence producing miasmata is septon. The septic acid appears to be generated by the joint influence of heat & moisture on vegetable and animal substances, it is emitted in an effluvia or gaseous state, during the process of putrefaction. These are facts that tell loudly on all places containing a dense population to a careful and seasonable removal of all filth and trash capable of decomposition and putrefaction: for the application of lime, in form of whitewash, to the walls of our dwellings, and to pour lime and ashes into the vaults of privies and all other places where putrefaction can be arrested, and the septic acid neutralized, and so divested of every deleterious quality.

34. Dr. Silas Reed, in a late communication, read before the Cincinnati medical Society, relating to Scarlet fever, observes, that “the peculiarities of the general state of the atmosphere, which contribute to the production of these effects, [the production of different forms of disease,] cannot be satisfactorily explained, from their being altogether uncognizable by our senses, yet we should by no means neglect to watch their effects, especially when local causes are present, which always adds complexity and inveteracy to disease arising from their union.”

35. “To illustrate this, I will refer,” says Dr. Reed, “to the Choleric Diathesis, which has been spreading its desolating effects over our country during the nine months past. To any one who has noticed the rise and progress of the Cholera through Canada and the United States, and the epidemic disposition of the disease which prevailed among us during the early part of last summer, it will not be doubted, I think, that an insensible distemperature of the atmosphere prevailed, which only required some unknown local cause, (which seemed to

arise more particularly along the larger water courses,) to light up the disease."

36. This article having been written previously to the reception of the 25th No. of the "Western Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences," we transcribed what we intended for publication, merely to include these sagacious ideas of Dr. Reed.

47. There can be no rational doubt of the existence of a peculiar specific epidemic state, condition or constitution of the atmosphere, whatever it may be that constitutes that peculiarity, that always immediately precedes or accompanies all forms of epidemic disease.

38. In whatever form, or condition, or state of modification the Cholera poison may exist in the air we breathe, yet its efficiency to produce disease may depend upon, or be connected with, the peculiar influence or agency of certain local causes. By a certain connate affinity or chemical attraction, the miasmatic virus may be presumed to be concentrated to produce morbid effects. In this state of concentration, sufficient to occasion disease, it undoubtedly becomes productive and accumulative in and about all the subjects of the form of disease so produced; and, in the productive accumulative state, may be retained and lurk in increasing quantities, and in new and augmented degrees of virulence in the bedding and apparel used by the sick, increasing in strength and quality like musk in certain local situations.

39. In Columbus, as in many other places, it has broken out simultaneously, in situations remote from each other—in families having no communication or commerce with, or knowledge of, the sick. Many, however, in divers other places, who have unfeelingly avoided the sick, discarded the natural charities of social life, refused the rights of humanity to the sick and dying, and who had never seen a Cholera patient in their lives, have, nevertheless, sickened and died of the malady. Whole families of this description have been swept away.

40. Many instances have also occurred of persons who have boldly and resolutely attended on the sick, the dy-

ing, and the dead, in cities, towns, and in populous neighborhoods in country places, whose exclusive concern has been to comfort the living, or to convey the deceased to their graves; and, notwithstanding their zeal and assiduity in doing good, they have never been attacked with the disease.

41. If any Thomsonian practitioner, and there have been many such, who had provided himself with the genuine Thomsonian remedies, and faithfully used the Thomsonian Cholera preventatives, that has ever himself fallen before the disease, it has been an occurrence with which we have not yet been made acquainted.

42. A good degree of humanity and neighbourly kindness has so far prevailed among the citizens of Columbus. Attendance on the sick has been prompt, but the subjects of the premonitory symptoms of this violent Cholera have been too much neglected—Delays, in this form of disease, are peculiarly dangerous.

43. As the Thomsonian practice, wherever faithfully tested, has everywhere evinced its superior efficacy, it behooves every Thomsonian practitioner to be well provided with the proper remedies; to have his medicine prepared in the best possible manner for immediate use, to be punctual in his attendance wherever employed, and see that his means be faithfully administered.

44. If now and then a case occurs in which certain persons, by special and extraordinary exposure, are seized with the complaint, who, it may be presumed, might otherwise have escaped, such instances should not discourage any one in the discharge of his duty: for, where the death of one may have been occasioned in this way, there has been many who have fel victims to the destroyer when cowardly flying to escape it.

45. Many among the Regular Faculty have fell by the Cholera while manfully, though we fear injudiciously contending with it. Many others have fallen after they had committed themselves to flight. But we know not of any reputable practitioner among the Thomsonians, who has practised in this complaint extensively, who has not

practiced successfully, or who has himself fallen a prey to the desolating plague. Such an event, we are convinced has seldom if it has ever happened.

46. The Thomsonian who is not seasonably provided with medicine, and whose medicines are defective in quality, and are not thoroughly prepared and seasonably and faithfully applied, he will be as feeble as Samson when he was shorn of his locks. In such a situation he and his patients may be swept away by the prevailing pestilence to an untimely grave.

47. Cholera may certainly be viewed as an extraordinary, and in some respects, almost unprecedented form of disease. At the same time there is little if any doubt, that the Cholera fright, improper indulgences, the want of due precaution, and the superstitious, irrational use of drastic purgatives, and laudanum, and other extravagant medical doses, called Cholera preventatives, swallowed by well persons, to preserve health when it is in no way impaired, is the occasion of almost or quite as much disease as is produced by the morbid influence of the genuine Choleric miasmata that rides on the wings of the wind.

48. We will conclude our remarks on this subject, by a quotation from that interesting and learned writer, Dr. D. Drake.—See Western Journal, Vol. 7, No. 25—Reviews and Bibliographical Notices, page 43.—“We shall not presume,” says the Doctor, “to attempt speculating on the causes of this resuscitation of Cholera, which seems to have taken place nearly at the same time, in several very distant parts of the valley of the Mississippi; though, in others, its revival has been and still is progressive. When the cause of Cholera shall be discovered, the laws of its action, its rise and fall and re-appearance, in short, its ‘thousand-and-one’ anomalies and apparent caprices will be unfolded to us. How long a period is to elapse before this great discovery will be made, we shall leave it with others to prophesy. And perhaps we had better submit the whole matter to those favored members of the profession who have already received the delicious revelation.

This we should be pleased to do, we knew which among the favored recipients to select. But they are few, and the means of determining which is the chosen vessel of Apollo are not quite obvious. Thus, one smelt the rising clouds of miasmata; another perceived the insensible evaporation of the atmosphere—another heard the hum of inaudible aerial insects, or tasted the invisible animals of the “fasher of waters” and countless tributaries—while another has perceived contagion enter at his finger’s ends! All are convinced and confident! We heartily wish ours of this happy fraternity; we long to ascend from the regions of anxiety and scepticism. We would believe in something if we could—but, at present, we must be excused either from believing or from canvassing the belief of others.

N. B. Here we are presented with an accurate description of the distressed condition of modern theories of medicine, drawn by a masterly pen. Conflicting theories lead to a diversity of measures in relation to the practice. We shall not now attempt much commentary on the animated remarks of the learned professor. Though we find much to admire in the production of his pen, his enlivening classical style, originality of thought, and general candor, we cannot always unequivocally subscribe to all his sentiments.—That a peculiar, specific, miasmatic constitution, state, or condition of the atmospheric air now exists, admits of no reasonable doubt, and that the sudden occurrence of warm weather for the two preceding weeks, which, on the 22nd, 23d, and 24th, became intensely hot, the Thermometer ranging from 97 to 98 degrees, while the Cholera increased in frequency and virulence, leaves no doubt of the correctness of the doctrine taught by Doctor John F. Henry, in his letter to Professor Short. He believes that the cause of Cholera is “identical with that of intermitting, remitting, and malignant fevers.”

In situations favorable to the production of excessive heat, or when, by a combination of circumstances, at a time of sudden, general, and excessive heat, certain local situations are more inten-



sively hot than others, we find the morbid constitution or *disease-producing* state of the atmosphere to be greatly aggravated.

As Dr. Thomson has told us of a former period, so it has been on this present occasion—"The heat of summer came on suddenly, and the weather became rapidly and intensively hot. The inward heat of men's bodies could not rise in proportion to the external heat, they had not time to take in, take up, and absorb the Caloric or heating principle from the atmospheric air they used for respiration.

The stream was too low; it fell nearly on a level with the degree of external heat. The prevalence of disease was the consequence. Equalization, inwardly and outwardly, would have, in any case, produced dissolution. This was the state of all who died—this was death! It is, and will be death wherever it occurs!" See Thomson's Cholera Chapter, p. 132.

P. S. While we speak confidently of the utility of Cholera preventatives, we wish that it may be distinctly understood that those persons who trust exclusively to preventative medicine, but neglect all due precaution, and indulge their appetite in the use of unripe fruits, and excesses of any kind, will be liable to disappointment. The caution cannot be too often repeated—"Be temperate in all things."

### TRUTH EXEMPLIFIED.

The Mineral Faculty are every where opposed to the whole tribe of Botanical Practitioners. This forms a wide arena for controversy. If an individual makes the least pretension to any kind or degree of medical knowledge, who does not belong to the Regular Calomel Faculty, they will endeavor to travel over him roughly,

"With gig and horse, in Doctor style,

"And strut, and blow, and murder with a smile."

Though destitute of any definite, fixed, and regular theory to govern their practice, and involved in everlasting

and irreconcilable controversy among themselves, they make common cause against Lobelia, Cayenne, and No. 6. Like Pilate and Cæsar, they will become friends to break down Botanical competition.

In every thing else, they disagree among themselves. The medical kingdom, as it exists among the Faculty, is overwhelmed with divisions, portentous of its dissolution.

It is very seldom that any two among the Regular Doctors can agree upon the mode of treatment for a patient when called in consultation. They will both want the patient, and both have their eyes fixed upon the recompence of reward. He who can make sure calculation upon having the vantage ground, on account of some certain combination of incidents, will resolutely push himself ahead.

Dr. FIRST was a gentleman of respectable acquirements among the Regular order of Physicians. He was engaged in attendance on Mr. SICKLY, who had been suddenly attacked with sick stomach, accompanied with laxity and pain in his bowels—extreme weakness, giddiness, and vomiting. On his arrival he gave him a dose of Calomel, and, in two hours, a dose of opium.—Some present, having a partiality for Dr. SECOND, he was strongly recommended, especially by a maiden lady of thirty-six, who esteemed him one of the most extraordinary woman-doctors in all the country. She had not a doubt but that he, should he be called in, could overcome, *sans ceremonie*, all difficulties, and administer prompt relief to suffering humanity.

Dr. SECOND was accordingly sent for post haste. In the mean time, Dr. FIRST was modestly and attentively engaged with sundry patients in the neighborhood. Dr. SECOND arrived.

Whip, hat, and gloves disposed of ap-  
 propriately, he took a turn or two across the  
 room, summoning the genii of medical  
 dignity to his aid, wrapt in the contem-  
 plation of his own consequentialness be-  
 yond the ken of vulgar apprehension,  
 until he was called down from his tre-  
 mendous elevation, to notice earthly  
 things, by the groans and agony of the  
 patient, and the importunity of his  
 friends.

Turning abruptly towards the suffer-  
 er, he seized him by the wrist, made a  
 few inquiries, some of which were  
 quite irrelevant, he made a pompous  
 display of his literary talents, in giving  
 a loquacious lecture on the disease, and  
 then tipping the wink to Miss LOVE-  
 ALL, they stepped a little aside from  
 the company and commenced a tete-a-  
 tete confabulation, but fraught with deep  
 design.

Dr. SECOND. I am obliged to con-  
 sider this a very bad case. I have  
 much confidence in your well-tryed  
 friendship. He is in a very bad way!  
 Your acquaintance and influence, un-  
 der proper management, may be of  
 much service. He is extremely dan-  
 gerous! He will not live many days  
 unless there should be a change made  
 in the treatment. This is all-impor-  
 tant. You understand me, madam,  
 [speaking low.] Heavens! Dr. FIRST  
 has this moment rode up! [Several  
 approaching them listening.] As I was  
 saying, I do not approve the treat-  
 ment, that is the plain, honest matter  
 of fact.

Miss LOVEALL. [Several listening  
 eagerly.] Indeed, Doctor, I really  
 think you must understand this man's  
 case. I have known of your giving re-  
 lief to many that were just as bad and  
 a great deal worse than this man.—  
 [Speaking a little louder and placing  
 herself in a position to be moving.]—  
 If it was mine own case, I should know  
 what to do; I should certainly come  
 immediately under your superior man-  
 agement and skill.

Dr. SECOND. I pay the most pro-  
 found respect to the experience and  
 judgment of those friendly ladies. I  
 am all sensible of my medical sta-  
 tioning. I anticipated your good opin-  
 ion and preference. You ladies all be-  
 lieve that I can effect a cure, or, to say  
 at least, greatly mitigate the pains, and  
 render him some temporary service.  
 I can render him special service, pro-  
 vided, as a prologue to the whole busi-  
 ness, Dr. FIRST be dismissed from  
 farther attendance in the case.

Nurse. Indeed, Dr. SECOND,  
 we are constrained to put some confidence  
 in your superior knowledge and skill—  
 Miss LOVEALL has spoken of your  
 skill in the highest strains of commendation,  
 and we really should be pleased to  
 hear your impartial opinion of Dr. FIRST,  
 that is, do you consider him a  
 skill that can be depended on?

Dr. SECOND. I suppose you  
 have overheard my remark, that I  
 am dissatisfied with the treatment in  
 this case! I think, as I was saying,  
 that I can be of material service to the patient,  
 provided you will be pleased to  
 dismiss Dr. FIRST. I make no disrespectful  
 insinuations. You must know I wish to  
 act honorably. We do not practice  
 alike. I see plainly that we could not  
 agree. He would pursue a course di-  
 metrically opposite to what would be  
 with me a *sine qua non*. I do not wish  
 to engage in any dispute or quarrel  
 with him. In this case I must question  
 his abilities. You see it is with me as  
 with the family:—Had they all been  
 satisfied, I should not have been con-  
 sulted.

Nurse. Well, Doctor, we all feel  
 much concerned for the safety and well-  
 fare of the sick man, and we wish you  
 to be plain and candid in all you say  
 and do in this matter.

Dr. SECOND. To be candid, then,  
 I have never said that Dr. FIRST was not  
 much of a gentleman. He may be pos-  
 sessed of superior talents for aught I  
 would insinuate to the contrary, but, in  
 giving Calomel and Opium, \*\*\*\*\*,  
 indeed, ladies, upon honor, I profess to  
 be master of a disorder like this—  
 \*\*\*, you know, \*\*\*, the fact is I do not  
 wish to be a perceptor to teach him  
 unless he would consent to pay me for  
 my lecture—you understand me, la-  
 dies. He could not expect me to con-

nit myself, and wrong my own interest, and, besides, it would not be congenial with my own feelings. You can just inform Dr. First, that you have employed me, presuming, from my superior advantages, \*\*\*\* however.—Ah! you well know how to state the case. [Turning to Miss Loveall]—You know yourself, you would not wish to employ more than one physician \*\*\* at a time.

Miss Loveall. Right, Doctor—right. If I was satisfied with his *talents* and attention, one at a time, would be my choice.

[After a little contrivance to adjust the difficulty, Dr. First being dismissed, Dr. Second began to fumble over his pockets, and took out his little pills and powders, looked wise, and was preparing to make his address in his best style, when the nurse began to interrogate him thus :

Nurse. What kind of pills are these, Doctor, in this paper?

Dr. S. These pilulæ are the Pilulæ Opii of the American Pharmacopœia. The Pilulæ Opiatæ of the Edinburgh—Sometimes denominated Pilulæ Thebaicæ.

Nurse. Doctor, allow me to inquire what kind of powders are these?

Dr. Second. This, madam, is Submurias Hydragryi Sublimatum, Sive Colomelas.

Nurse. Indeed, Doctor, it does appear to me, this half dozen of pills look, taste, and smell exactly like opium for all the world; and this Colomelas, I do believe it is Calomel. Why, sir, this is precisely the way Dr. First was treating this man.

Dr. Second. Ah! Madam, let me make you acquainted with an important fact, that will serve as a corrector of your judgment. I profess to have some skill in the management of these fevers. Dr. First goes on in the old-fashioned way, giving Calomel and Opium. No wonder he is so unsuccessful, and all his patients die! My scheme of practice is more modern. It is quite an improvement upon the antiquated plans of Dr. First.

Nurse. I know, Doctor, you are a man of great learning and skill, and I really wish to understand this matter a little better; will you be so kind as to explain yourself so that I can comprehend your views of the subject.

Dr. Second. Indeed, madam, this plan of giving Calomel and Opium, is an old-fashioned way of doing business.—Calomel is the Samson, and Opium is the Hercules of medicine. Samson, you know, though a man and a great man, was but a man; but Hercules was a God, the son of Jupiter, and, among the learned, should always have the preference. My rule is to give *opium and colomel*. This, madam, is a modern improvement. If the patient will take my directions, he will do very well. I wish to have an exclusive management of the case myself, without any interference of Dr. First, with his Calomel and Opium.

Nurse. Indeed, Doctor, we all know you are a learned man, and have been to college, and seen and heard all about them lectures, or we never should have thought of sending for you. But, indeed, Doctor, you seem to make a distinction where there is but a little difference. When I prepare supper for my children, one will cry mamma, I want *mush and milk*—Little Sally always cries *milk, mush, mamma*. With me, it always amounts to the same thing.

Dr. Second. I perceive, madam, you have never studied medicine. Here is what I have prepared for the patient, *secundum artem*.

Nurse. Well, Doctor, how must this be given?

Dr. Second. My direction is, that this medicine be administered *pro re nata atutis et symptomatum*.

Nurse. Indeed, Doctor, you will please to excuse me. I am a person of but little learning. I hear every thing you say, but I must confess I do not understand a word!

Dr. Second. Well, madam, we who have the supreme honor to be made familiarly acquainted with the technicalities of our Medical Universities, can sometimes enjoy the superlative felicity of condescending to accommodate our explanations of literary mysteries to the intellectual imbecilities of the ordinary circles of common life. Let me tell you, then, explicitly and intelligibly, that this *Hercules* and this *Samson* must be regularly administered according to reason, age, and symptoms.

Nurse. Excuse my ignorance, Doctor—I am willing to learn, but when

and how, and how often must these medicines be given?

Dr. S. Well, madam, here is a pill and here is a powder—these make one dose, which you will give him, *et repetatur post horas duas nisi alius prius respondeat*.

Nurse. Doctor! Doctor! Doctor!! Have mercy on me. If such a learned man can inform me how this medicine is to be given, I will really endeavor to give it the best way I can—time is precious. Something, we know, must be done immediately. Do be explicit and try and save this poor sick man. If Opium and Calomel can do more for him than Calomel and Opium, it is high time we should be making the experiment.

Dr. S. Well, madam, as I was saying, give him these for a dose, and repeat after two hours, unless the bowels are sufficiently acted upon by the former, as I told you before: I am weary of being so minute with my directions.

Nurse. I hope, Doctor, that I understand you now. I shall give every attention to his situation in my power; but if the medicine evidently injures him?—

Dr. S. Well, madam, I want you to do your best. I have been remarkably successful—not more than five out of six common cases of Scarlet Fever have proved fatal under my care; and those that have recovered, have scarcely taken any medicine at all—such is its amazing efficacy. Of Cholera patients, one in about twenty lived, within the \*\*\*\*\*: What I consider the bounds of my practice! though I did not venture to visit many of them, they died so rapidly! I did not like to introduce it into my family! If those poor patients that have died, had taken Opium and Calomel enough, the Cholera never would have killed them.

Nurse. No, Doctor, I think you must be right. It is my opinion that the Opium and Calomel that has been so lavishly used with these Cholera patients, have destroyed hundreds that would have recovered had they let such poisons alone altogether. It is very certain this man has the Cholera—he was severely puked and purged—and we think it is a state of collapse, as the Doctors call it, that is the matter with him now.

Dr. S. Where's my horse? I must be going! If my wife knew that I have been in a Cholera neighborhood, she would not suffer me to return! It is not very polite treatment! I ought to have mentioned this circumstance before! I must be going to have scores of patients to attend to.

Nurse. Well, Doctor, you are so much engaged, we will try and dispense with your services.

[Exit Dr. Second.]

Miss Loveall—[Turning to the present.] I esteem Dr. Second very much of a gentleman. He certainly is much of a woman's Doctor. If I ever should stand in need of a Doctor to do any thing for me, he's the man!

### CLIVERS,

Sometimes called *Cleavers*, *Goose Grass*, and *Poor Robin's Plain*. Technically, [*Galium Aparine* and *Galium Verum*.]

This plant rises several feet from the ground, but, in different sections of the country, varies considerably in height. Its slender square stem inclines to climb a neighboring shrub or bush—its angular joints are furnished with sharp prickles—leaves lance-shaped and small, whitish on the upper side, blossoms small and white. Its fruit, or twin-like prickly berries, each contain two seeds. A strong infusion or tea of these leaves relieve stranguary and cleanse the urinary passages. It is most effectual as a diuretic when recently gathered. The expressed juice of the green plant, made into a poultice, with wheat bran, or corn meal, or oat meal, reduces indolent hard tumors when applied cool. The system should be first evacuated—the poultice should be applied cool, changed every four or five hours, the patient using the precaution to take the warming medicine freely through the whole process. In urinary obstruction, it has been observed that a combination of several articles reputed diuretic will often succeed where the best medicines of that class have failed when given alone. By judicious combinations, there is evidently very frequently obtained an increase of power and energy, and a medicine will be furnished, that will have a more certain and salutary effect than can be derived from any single article.

is a truth universally admitted," says a modern and very excellent writer, "that the arm of physic has derived much additional power and increased energy from the resources which are furnished by the mixture and combination of medicinal bodies. I by no means intend to insinuate that the physician cannot frequently fulfil his most important indications by the administration of one simple remedy; I only contend that, in many cases, by its scientific combination with other medicines, it will not only act with greater certainty and less inconvenience, but that its sphere of influence may be thus more widely extended, and its power so modified and changed, as to give rise to a remedy of new powers." To no class of medicine will these reasonings apply with greater force and certainty than to those termed Diuretics.

### COLUMBO ROOT.

[*Frasera Walteri*, *Frasera Carolinensis*, *Frasera Verticillata*.] This also has many English names. The species we refer to is the American Columbo, so called because a native of the U. States. Called, also, Ohio Columbo, because found in abundance in this State Smith's Columbo, because Peter Smith, a respectable Elder of the Baptist Church, some 25 or 30 years ago, discovered some of its virtues, and, when he resided on Mad River, published some remarks concerning it. It has been called Marietta Columbo, growing plentifully in that vicinity. It may be found in most of the States. Dr. Hildreth's description is the most satisfactory to those unacquainted with the plant of any that we have seen.

"The radical leaves, when it springs from the seed, are five in number, to these are added, the second season, five more. The third spring, for it is a triennial plant, it sends up a stalk with five whorls or leaves, when each whorl consists of five leaves, and four when each consists of 4 leaves, before it puts out any flowering branches. The leaves are in whorls smooth and spear-shaped. Sitting on short footstalks compactly round the stem. It flowers in July. The blossoms are of a dingy yellowish white.

The root shoots out in a horizontal direction; is spindle-shaped, and, when

well grown, extends from eighteen to thirty inches in length. Near the surface of the earth, the root is wrinkled; its color, in a young plant, is a light yellow, and is solid and brittle. After the stalk is fully grown, the root becomes softer and less bitter."

In the fall of the second year or spring of the third year of its growth, or an open spell in the intermediate winter, the roots having come to their greatest maturity, should then be dug. It has been found useful in diarrhoea and bilious affections of the stomach and bowels. It relieves that troublesome habitual nausea frequently attendant on women during their period of gestation, but we are confident not as certainly as the Kercuma, which we esteem a superior medicine. The Columbo, however, internally and externally applied, has in one instance, says Dr. Hildreth, "put a stop to a wide spreading gangrene in the heat of summer." It is a tonic bitter that may be safely used in tincture compounded with some aromatic, as prickly ash, or sassafras bark, or ginger, cloves or allspice, to improve the taste and conjoin a more stimulant quality. Thus prepared it may render service in cases of debility and indigestion. It is gently laxative when taken in substance, without producing pain and disturbance in the bowels, or giving rise to that debility too often occasioned by purgatives. The fresh dug root is unsuitable for internal use, being not only nauseous to the taste, but it will produce vomiting and purging, even in such doses as may be taken with impunity when it has been well cured. It may often prove a useful addition to tonic bitters composed of various materials. Thomsonians will not resort to the use of any means of this description without preparing the way by emetics and injections, that their prescriptions may have an opportunity to take effect.

### CRANE-BILL.

Spotted Geranium. [*Geranium Maculatum*.] It is sometimes, though improperly called crow-foot. It has been gathered in diverse places of the United States for the Tormentil of the shops. Dr. Cox mentions, that in "some of the North-western parts of the United States



it is called *Racine a Bequet*, after a person of this name." We have known it frequently called Bequet root. It grows in wood-land and meadow grounds. The root is generally crooked and knotty, of a blackish color externally, but, when broken, has a reddish cast, somewhat resembling avenge-root. It has a roughly astringent taste.

The roots are the only part used for medical purposes. These boiled in milk, have been accounted a valuable medicine in the summer complaint in the bowels of children. Many physicians have used it for the Termentil of the shops. In a chronic, or long lingering looseness of the bowels, it has often produced most salutary effects. Combined with bitters and taken in substance freely, it has proved successful in agues, where the system was prepared by proper evacuations. A strong decoction is an excellent cure for old foul ulcers—checks an immoderate flow of the menses; injections, locally applied, are useful in female weakness called *flour albus*, or leucorrhœa.—Relieves bloody urine and seminal gleet in men.

#### DOGWOOD.

Boxwood, or boxtree. [*Cornus Florida*.] This is a beautiful forest shrub found in every part of the United States. The flowers, bark, and berries, have all been used in medicine. They are all mildly astringent and possess a tonic quality. The bark has been used in substance and in decoction for intermitting and remitting fevers. The berries make an agreeable bitter. The dried bark and ripe berries are the parts most suitable for medical purposes.—The bark, berries, and blossoms are rendered more pleasant when tinctured, by the addition of orange peel or some grateful aromatic.

#### FEVER BUSH.

Spice-bush, spice-wood, [*Laurus Benzoin*] called also wild alspice. This aromatic spicy shrub rises five or six feet in height. The blossoms are of a pale redish color. To these succeed berries of a deep red, of a strong, spicy, pleasant smell. Further description is useless. A tea made of the young

tops is pleasant and often used in thirst and fevers. The tops and berries, boiled in milk and water, a useful wash for persons whose hands and feet are poisoned with poison or with swamp dogwood. Sweetened with fine sugar and drank hot, has been found useful in excessive heat and pains of the bowels. The essential oil of the berries no doubt possess the virtues of the shrub in a concentrated state, and may be used inwardly and outwardly for painifications; but of this we have no particular knowledge, but it comes recommended on respectable authority.

#### PROGRESS OF THE CHOLERA.

Since yesterday's report, deaths have occurred—Some say it is said, after a brief illness, should inspire great watchfulness regard to every exciting cause.

#### DIET.

People should distinguish between its use and its abuse. From personal observation and much conversation with medical friends, I am convinced it is quite possible to live too long when Cholera is prevalent. The diet should be generous and warming, but free from crude, tough, and sour articles.—Fresh beef, mutton, liver, chickens, and new eggs, are amongst the best items of animal diet—tomatoes, turnips, boiled onions, mealy potatoes, ripe blackberries, and stale bread, the best vegetable food. Pork, veal, and fat bacon, are not as safe as the meats just enumerated; and green corn, apples, cucumbers, and melons, should be entirely avoided. Those who make great exertions should refrain from eating while hot or fatigued, and, especially, every one should avoid hearty suppers. On the whole, it will be safer to make breakfast their greatest meal.

[*Cincinnati Chronicle*.]

SUICIDE.—We regret to learn that Mr. Calvin Hobert, of the vicinity of Massillon, put a period to his existence on Thursday evening the 4th instant, by drowning himself in the canal, in consequence of mental derangement, "occasioned by a free use of intoxicating liquors." He has left a wife and two children to mourn his untimely end.—*Ohio Rep.*

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HERSEY, Senior Editor.

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FROM THE AMERICAN LANCET.

## YELLOW FEVER.

There has recently fallen into our hands a French work, published during the last year by Dr. Chervin, of Paris, entitled "Opinions of the American Doctors on the contagion or non-contagion of the Yellow Fever." The author, it seems, has, for many years been a patient and industrious investigator of the truth of this most important question; one of the highest interest, perhaps, to the condition of man, enabling him, by a calm inquiry into truth, to avert, by just deduction, consequences fatal as well to happiness as to existence: every man, therefore, with honest intentions, is justified in speaking aloud what he believes to exist on this subject of contagion or non-contagion.

Dr. Chervin visited the United States as long ago as 1821, with a view of making an impartial examination of the facts that were to be found in possession of the most intelligent medical gentlemen inhabiting the cities of our seacoast, where the destructive influence of the Yellow Fever had at various epochs raged with more or less malignity. Having previously devoted much time and labor in visiting many of the tropical isles to procure certain data as to the character of this disease, he was forcibly led to the conclusion from the evidence collected in those nurseries of the grave, that the malady in question was indigenous. But to be confirmed, however, more fully in this opinion, or rather more properly speaking, to look more thoroughly into the important question, this friend of humanity made the visit of which we have above spoken; the result of which appears in the statements contained in the book before us, from which we propose to make at present a few extracts, in justice as well to the author as to the subject, such as time and place will allow, to be

continued in our subsequent numbers as opportunity will permit.

The opinion so generally advocated towards the close of the last century, by the most intelligent medical writers, on the contagion of Yellow Fever, has been rapidly changing for a long time, and its advocates have at length dwindled to a mere span, as well in the old as the new world; but more particularly in the latter, where opportunity for observation exists most. For ourselves, we candidly confess a strong *penchant* for the doctrine of non-contagion, and we feel strengthened in this belief by the diligent researches of the author before us; but whilst there remains even the present small number of respectable individuals holding a different opinion, we, as honest enquirers into truth, conceive it a duty to be open to conviction, and to declare our impressions with becoming distrust and proper circumspection.

Dr. Chervin commences his remarks in the following manner:

"It is necessary truly that I should be a *terrible man*, as the Gazette of France says, since the most celebrated contagionists of the two worlds have presented themselves in combat with me, as if I were the sole obstacle to the triumph which they promise themselves. Until now, it is true, I have had nothing to do but with the contagionists of Europe, and God knows they are sufficiently formidable! But suddenly a champion from the banks of the Hudson presents himself on the arena, and throws me the gauntlet:—This is no other than Dr. David Hosack, of New York, one of the most intrepid advocates for the doctrine of contagion that I ever met.

"This new adversary commences his hostility by a letter addressed the 14th of May last, to his friend, Dr. Townsend, then in Paris. Let us examine this letter, as well as the remarks of the editors of the Medical Review, and

the Gazette of France.\* Dr. Hosack writes thus:—

“MY DR. TOWNSEND:—I take the opportunity of a moment to tell you how much pleasure your letter has imparted to me. I am extremely glad to hear that the Academy of Medicine has not decided in favor of non-contagion of the Yellow Fever; for, in this case, most certainly it would be obliged to retract its opinion. There is nothing necessary more than the facts contained in the letter I wrote Dr. Chervin when he was in this country. I pray you to insist on the publication of that letter, which I then wrote him, and which has been probably suppressed.”

“It is extremely natural that Dr. Hosack should be glad that the Academy of Medicine should not have decided in favor of non-contagion of Yellow Fever, that is to say, of a doctrine which he had vainly opposed for more than thirty years; but he is much mistaken when he says this body would be obliged to retract its opinion, from the facts which were contained in the letter which he wrote me during my stay in New York; for in truth this letter contains not a single fact, as we shall see.

“On my arrival at New York, towards the end of June 1821, I had the honor to forward to Dr. Hosack many letters of introduction, of which I was the bearer; and I begged of him, at the same time, to have the goodness to communicate to me, in writing, the result of his personal experience on the contagion or non-contagion of the Yellow Fever, and to give me, in support of his opinion, the most remarkable facts of which he himself had been witness.

“On the 3d of July following, the doctor had the kindness to give me four volumes composing the journal which he published under the title of the *American Medical and Philosophical Register*, containing his discourses on medical police; and two other pamphlets, not by himself. He accompanied these with a note or letter, in which he most forcibly called my attention to the pretended facts on contagion contained in these different writings; which

however, were perfectly known before.

“As I had no other object in voyage than to collect facts that had been previously published, and to amuse myself with those that already made a part of the domain of science, on the 17th of July, I begged again Dr. Hosack to have the goodness furnish me a document where the facts were to be found. I added that it would be more easy for him to do it, he had told me he possessed a number of proofs of contagion which never had been published. Dr. Hosack replied that the facts contained in the letter given me ought to suffice for me, if they were numerous, and, more than all, highly positive. I replied, that these facts had not been published, and that there were a number of other medical gentlemen of New York who, with the goodness to give me documents with their signatures, it would therefore appear very strange that I should not have one from perhaps the most celebrated contagionist in the new world. I even added, that it would be that I had omitted to address myself to him because of his opinion, or, to express it better, in consequence of the facts by which he sustained it. After a long discussion on this subject, Dr. Hosack at length promised me, with great hesitation, however, to give me the document which I had solicited of his kindness and love of science; and that he should not forget it, I repeated it two days after in a most circumstantial letter.

“He replied to me on the 16th of August following, but this letter did not contain one word of what he had told me. He referred me simply to the facts contained in the book which he had given me, as well as to other writings, which he said would be quite enough to convince me that the Yellow Fever was imported from tropical regions, and that it was communicated by an impure atmosphere. He adds, ‘I am also in possession of other proofs than those already published, of the introduction and of the communication of subsequent contagion of the Yellow Fever in New York in 1795, 1796, 1797, &c. &c. proofs of which I myself have been witness, having not left the city during those visitations of sickness.—

\*See the Medical Review of June, 1828, p. 482, and the Gazette of France of 17th August, of the same year.

But the recital would fill a volume; and, as I am at this moment engaged in preparing for publication a work on this subject, I retain them for that purpose.'

"Dr. Hosack commits a most material error when he affirms that the letter which he wrote me at New York contained facts sufficient of themselves to cause the Royal Academy of Medicine to change its opinion, if ever it had decided in favor of non-contagion. This letter contained absolutely not a single fact, but only the indication of many works where the pretended facts on contagion are stated, as having occurred in different States of the Union, and of which many had been published and completely invalidated for more than twenty years.

"But admit for a moment that the letter of Dr. Hosack contained, on the contrary, all the pretended facts of contagion that have taken place in the United States since 1791, what ought we to infer from it? That if, in the face of these facts, all the Doctors of North America declare in favor of non-contagion, the opinions of these gentlemen are to be disregarded, and the question established by these pretended facts for the members of the first medical body in France.

"Is Dr. Hosack ignorant that before 1795 all his brother Doctors in New-York were believers in contagion, and that, according to the avowal of Dr. Townsend himself, there are, at this time, not more than three or four contagionist doctors in that city, where we find above 400 persons exercising the healing art? Is he ignorant that at each new apparition of the Yellow Fever in New York, the number of medical contagionists have progressively diminished, until they are now reduced to three or four believing in contagion? Is he ignorant that, after the epidemic of 1822, the last that afflicted that city, one of his most distinguished pupils, Dr. John Beck, from respect to truth, publicly renounced the doctrine of contagion? Is he ignorant that Dr. Beck has exposed, with candor, the motives for changing his opinion, in an eloquent and learned refutation, which he made in 1823?

"Again, we have seen that at New

York even, in despite of the influence of Dr. Hosack, as professor and author, there is not more, in that great city, the largest in the American Union, than three or four advocates for the doctrine of contagion. The Professor has eloquently said to his pupils, as well as to the public, that nothing can protect the community against the ravages of the Yellow Fever, but the most rigorous quarantine, executed by officers who conscientiously believed in its utility, that is to say, who believed in contagion. In spite of this *salutary* advice, and the rich emoluments that result to the Doctors of the Board of Health of New York, such as the wise and excellent Doctors Hosack and Townsend, who occupied it in 1820, the number of contagionists has not in the least increased. On the contrary, with some few exceptions, the Doctors employed in these health establishments in the numerous cities of the seaboard of the United States, are all convinced that the Yellow Fever is not in the least contagious, and they express in the highest terms their opinion on this subject, in the documents which they have had the goodness to furnish me. More attached to truth than to their personal interest, they have voluntarily sapped the foundation of an enormous system, by which they were enabled to live and derive lucrative emolument. Many amongst them even, who are in the discharge of their professional duties as guardians of the public good, have acquired positive proof of the non contagion of Yellow Fever. To do this, it is necessary that there should exist a profound conviction, and more than all, a reverence for truth that men should decide thus against self interest, in contending with a doctrine from which they derive such great advantages.

"The Doctors of the United States who first expressed themselves against the opinion of contagion, when this opinion was universal in their country, have already shown a noble recantation at the shrine of science and humanity; for, in attacking thus the front of the bigotry and prejudices of their fellow-citizens, in saying to them that their sun is capable of engendering the seeds of this frightful scourge, they rendered themselves unpopular, and incurred

their displeasure, by which their antagonists profited, which has not in the least prevented the happy revolution of which we have spoken.

"I will add, that, having obtained documents from almost all the Doctors of the United States who still believe in the doctrine of contagion, I can say, with truth, that, for the most part, they are far from being positive in expressing themselves on this important question; they advance their opinions, on the contrary, with such modifications as almost entirely to annul them, as will be fully shown when the documents are published which they have been kind enough to furnish me. The advocates for contagion in North America are now extremely few; but they are in a still smaller proportion in South America, where they consider themselves as being in the cradle of the Yellow Fever."

We are now admonished by the limit of our sheet, that the extracts already made from the work before us, are for the present sufficiently copious; and conclude them by subjoining the opinion on the subject of which it treats, of one of the most indefatigable as well as most intelligent writers on natural science of the present age, from whose researches and just opinions very few are disposed to offer an appeal; our allusion is to the well-known Baron Humboldt. "It is incontestible," says this philosopher, "that the vomito is not contagious at Vera Cruz, from whence it is so often pretended that it is imported into other countries." And the authority of this illustrious man is supported by the experience of all the distinguished Doctors of that country, such as Comoto, Ximenes, Mocifio, &c.—Again, he says, a little more at length, that, "on the Continent of South America, the Yellow Fever is not more contagious than is the intermittent fever in Europe."

We have declared our opinion already on the subject of non-contagion; and the extracts just given, as well as many other passages of the work from which they are taken, tend much to confirm our previous impressions: to say indeed impressions, is a halting term; conviction, in short, would urge us to the expression of positive belief. But

whilst we entertain, as we repeat do, just sentiments of respect for a few who still linger in the minority opinion, it will be, as proper homage only due to respectable names.

When we calmly survey the cause of malignant fever in the midst of which we find ourselves placed, and the enervating influence of a servile beaming its scorching rays for months in succession; decomposing the immense quantities of vegetable and animal matter, found within the bowels of our populous cities, and producing streams of miasmata that every day of time are poisoning, through the medium of our respiratory organs, the system, already predisposed by intemperance to disease; enfeebling and deranging the healthy functions, particularly of the abdominal viscera, and, above all, those of that great conglomerate body, the liver, on the due performance of whose natural offices health and vigor of the animal frame so much depend; we say, when we reflect on this, we cannot for a moment be surprised that the consequence should often be, disease of the highest grade. As men of science, we believe we may venture to say, that we are not mistaken in referring to the cause of that frightful malady, the Yellow Fever, such as, at various times, has, with so much violence afflicted every grade of persons in our largest cities.

If this opinion be true, then let us no longer deceive ourselves by mistaken theories and false opinions of foreign contagion; let us assure ourselves that the enemy is domestic and lurks immediately at our own door, from whence, by proper police regulations, and sensible counsel emanating from men skilled in the healing art, we shall succeed in banishing from amongst us one of the most appalling foes to the happiness and existence of the human race. Reason insists, and experience justifies loudly in the declaration that this is true.

**GOOD ADVICE.**—An aged man on his death bed, thus addressed his children: "My children, I am dying, and have not strength to exhort you—follow my example; live honestly, serve God, and take, and promptly pay for Newspapers."



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## THE RECORDER.

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### COLUMBUS,

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1833.

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#### CHOLERA IN COLUMBUS.

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It is a fact that we have been a highly favored people. The pestilence that has been so terribly destructive of human life, has made comparatively trifling ravages here. True, a number of valuable lives have fallen victims to its deadly power; but, among those who have been assailed by the destroyer, they have generally been promptly attended and happily recovered.

The number of deaths here, considering our population, and the number who have been more or less affected with the complaint, in some form or other, (for all have not been affected precisely alike,) have been comparatively few.

The cause why this calamity has prevailed so mildly here, compared with the severity with which other towns and cities have been visited, is a subject of interesting enquiry.

Some, like the Pharisee in the temple, may begin to thank God that the citizens of Columbus are not like many other men, they have more spacious buildings, and more in number, dedicated to the worship of God, a greater number of worshippers who attend herein, and worship more frequently, than in most other places of equal population. The Destroying Angel, who saw the blood of the Passover on the lintels and door-posts of Egypt, has witnessed their devotions and averted his sin-avenging arm.

We will just observe that the benevolence of Deity, his regard to human affairs, and providential presidency in regulating the general current of events, gives a devout impulse to the Christian's faith, and abounds with a soul-animating consolation to the genuine unfeigned believer; but the days of miraculous interposition have flown away, and the destinies of man appear to be directed by certain general laws,

which constantly develop a regular undeviating concatenation of causes and effects, in which, while we recognize the evolutions of Divine wisdom, this acknowledgment is extorted by a discovery of the connection and dependencies of certain ends, effected by certain means, the adoption whereof to the accomplishment of such particular purposes, could be ascertained only by the events.

It must be conceded that, in the course of the late pestilence, "all things have come alike to all: there has been one event to the righteous, and to the wicked." The temperate and exemplary Christian has not appeared to be more secure from disease and death than the profligate and profane.

The influence of the general cause of the disease has, however, as far as our enquiries have extended, been measurably regulated by certain exciting causes, and often by a certain constitutional predisposition to disease over which religion and morality could not exercise any specific control. The office of religion is to sustain the soul for a patient indurance of the trials incident to man, but not to insure our escape.

Indiscreet indulgences have, in divers instances, produced disastrous consequences. Intemperance is undoubtedly an exciting cause of disease; but when the intemperate restrain their appetite, and refrain from indulgence, through fear or any other motive, it may be the occasion of salutary consequences.

The first fatal instance of Cholera in this town, was in the case of Mr. Staggs. He was a man of intemperate habits — The day previous to his attack, he worked hard, drank hard, and the day being excessively warm, he perspired freely, and, we understand, imprudently bathed for more than half an hour in the river. Those circumstances, together with a liberal potation of brandy and loaf sugar, used on the morning preceding his decease, to relieve a premonitory diarrhoea, under which he had previously labored for many days, and the bathing of his limbs in cold water to relieve the cramp that attended him, to which he was habitually liable, no doubt all these circumstances, combined perhaps with errors of diet, of which

we have not been apprized, operated as exciting causes to induce the full development of the disease which terminated suddenly in death.

Mary Davis a colored woman, whose case proved fatal, brought on the disease, by imprudent indulgence in the use of young plumbs and squashes.

In Mr. Hisler's two children, the exciting cause appears to have been the indiscreet use of plumbs and currants, when their parents had not an opportunity of knowing and preventing it.

Mr. Zean, who was suddenly and severely attacked in the night, being promptly attended, was speedily recovered—in this case, the patient was sensible that, being previously hearty, he had indulged much too far at the table in gratifying his appetite, and was fully sensible of this circumstance being the exciting cause—pain, nausea, frequent profuse watery and mixed evacuations, with alarming prostration of strength, &c., evinced the danger of his condition.

His brother-in-law, Mr. D. Shilling, was attacked the day preceding, in consequence of too liberal a use of sugar. Through the day, he was handling and hauling a large quantity, of which he was frequently tasting, and, having labored for some time previous under a premonitory diarrhoea, pains, and flatulency; this indulgence more readily proved an exciting cause—the disease came on suddenly and violently. The vomiting and purging proceeded rapidly; the debility and universal impression of the disease upon the whole system, made his situation truly alarming, but the Thomsonian remedies, being promptly and faithfully applied, a few hours brought relief, though the debility induced in both these cases was so great as to require several days to recover their former strength.

These are but a few among the many instances that we have traced the occurrence of the Cholera form of disease to certain exciting causes, but for which the pestilential constitution or distemperature of the atmosphere, probably would not have induced the disease.

It is doubtful whether any case of Cholera has occurred among us, which, if closely investigated, could not be

traced to similar exciting causes, and under a different temperature, state condition of the atmosphere, might have occasioned any kind or degree of disease whatever. The subject is worthy of an honest and laborious investigation.

We are now prepared to assign a reason why Cholera has not been so extensive and mortal. The citizens of Columbus have heard the alarm of Cholera through the last year, and during the immediately preceding season. The storm has thickened, and the thunder of its terrors rumbled near. We may say, without hesitation, that we embrace an enlightened population, and firmly believe, from observation, that a precautionary position has no where more generally obtained among any people.

The precursors of the pestilential epidemic, are commonly an unusual sensation of the stomach, occasional disturbance of the organs of digestion, flatulency, diarrhoea, sometimes colic, sickness, wandering pains, general depression, a load and oppressive distension about the chest, heat and rumbling in the abdominal region, and, as the disease advances to an open and decided attack, all the powers of nature rapidly to decline. The cold and clammy sweat, cold limbs, face, and cold breath, and corrugated skin, haggard countenance, sunken eyes, tremors, deafness, loss of sight, declining pulse, universal debility, spasms, and spasmodic ejections, and copious spasmodic detrusions of the contents of the lower bowels, demonstrate that, in every stage of the complaint, from its commencement, that vitality was receding from the extreme surface, and the stream of life flowing back upon the fountain, and the propelling power of the vascular system in a state of rapid declension.

From this view of the subject, the suitability of the Thomsonian Remedies is unequivocally inferable from the nature of the disease. A general conviction of their adaptability and unprecedented utility, as preventatives and curatives, has, in this section of the country, been the occasion of their being more extensively used than in almost any other place that can be men-

tioned. The zeal with which Botanic Remedies have been sought after and applied upon Thomsonian principles, and their remarkable successfulness, can be amply attested, not only by the open and avowed Thomsonians, but by all the Botanic establishments in the town and the adjacent country and villages that surround us. This liberal and extensive use of Thomsonian preventatives, may in some measure account for the rare occurrence of this disease amidst so dense and numerous a population. We would not be understood that Thomsonian medicine can always rise superior to all exciting causes, and promise security to the individual whose use of procuratives and excitatives is ten-fold to the use he makes of the means of prevention. If your house was on fire, a bucket of water would do but little to extinguish it, provided, at the same time, you poured upon a feeble blaze a barrel of oil and another of alcohol. Excessive draughts of buttermilk, drank when the persons were unusually warm, is said, in two instances, to have operated as an exciting cause of the disease. Whether any preventatives had been previously resorted to, in these cases, we have not had an opportunity to enquire. But preventative medicine can avail but little when exciting causes are suffered to control common sense.

Among other reasons that may be assigned for our escape from the sweeping mortality from which other places differently situated, is the general elevation, openness, & consequent free ventilation of the country. Columbus is far from being a sunken marshy situation.

Among the many reasons that may be assigned why the subjects of Cholera have not been as numerous, and, in the result, as generally mortal as in divers other places, in proportion to the number of inhabitants, we would suggest that the alluvial argillaceous soil on which a number of towns are situated, where the disease has been particularly mortal, has been a circumstance specially favorable to the generation of miasmata, and to give effect to the pestilential fevers, however produced; but Columbus stands on a base of calcareous earth. Limestone is found in abun-

dance. We have limestone water for our daily drink. May we not, then, reasonably conjecture that the powerful antiseptic quality which this lime possesses, neutralizing the acid of contagion or pestilence, or the putrefactive disease-producing-principle that impregnates the atmospheric air, whenever they come in contact. To this may be added the abundance of lime used for cement in the numerous buildings, and private and public works now in a state of active progression. — Look at the city of La Vera Cruz; true it is a filthy place; compare it with Campeachy, as to cleanliness, travelers do not give it any better character. There is no remarkable observable mode of difference in their moral habits or manner of subsistence; dissipation abounds in both places. "How, then," enquires an intelligent and distinguished writer, "happens it that La Vera Cruz is so afflicted with diseases, whilst Campeachy is healthy? Campeachy abounds with lime stone----La Vera Cruz has none, except the small quantities that are procured out of the Keys, and that brought from other places. "May it not, then," says the author, "be owing to the powerful antiseptic quality which this lime possesses, neutralizing the acid of contagion whenever they come in contact, and by this means, rendering Campeachy healthy?" The writer observes farther, "The town of New Providence, in the Bahamas, furnishes another striking proof of the good effects of lime stone underlaying a city. I am warranted in saying, that this place is principally built of lime stone; and notwithstanding the filthiness of this place, the inhabitants enjoy good health."

Having made these observations, we shall presume on the abilities of our readers, to make application of them to the point in hand, only noting, as we pass the dreadful ravages of the epidemic pestilence in those towns and cities that stand on the alluvial argillaceous bottoms along the shores of the mighty waters of this western world.

In conclusion, we would suggest the idea of the importance of the use of lime and the chloride of lime to cast on sunken filthy places, the vaults of privies, or wherever any septic acidity may be

presumed to exist, that the number of exciting causes of cholera may thereby be diminished.

P. S. Notwithstanding all the intimations suggested of the several circumstances that have induced us to venture an auguration so favorable to the citizens of Columbus, we cannot justify ourselves in neglecting to state that, should this temporary abatement of apparent danger induce neglect of due precaution in diet and exposure to exciting causes; should our inhabitants throw aside preventative medicine and the requisite measures of prudence, they might justly be accused of a dangerous apathy. Sudden and excessive changes in the state of the atmosphere, might favor the deliterious impressions of such distemperature, which, aided by multifarious predisposing causes, may yet be the occasion of an increase of disease and death, and fill our hitherto highly favored Metropolis with lamentation and woe!

### DESULTORY OBSERVATIONS

On Cholera, Cholera Morbus, and Epidemic forms of Disease in general—particularly

#### CHOLERIC EVACUATIONS.

1. All writers agree, and our own observations abundantly confirm the fact, that, in the incipient stage of Epidemic Cholera, as it has latterly prevailed, there exists a sensation of depression, weight, and anxiety, about the region of the stomach. To this uneasy disagreeable sensation, nausea, heat, pain, and vomiting, soon succeed, and a remarkable and universal debility seizes on the patient. The first discharges will consist of the usual contents of the stomach and bowels, but shortly the evacuations upwards and downwards put on a turbid, flaky, milky, rice water appearance.

2. The question has been seriously agitated among the learned, From whence do these discharges proceed? or what occasions these singular appearances? We know that the functional secretions

common to the liver, kidneys, skin, &c. are interrupted, deranged, or measurably suspended, or under some peculiar morbid influence and direction in Cholera. We contend that these appearances are not the result of a dissolution of the villous coat of the stomach, occasioned by the rapid and violent progress of inflammation, terminating in sphacelus, or gangrene. These appearances commence in many cases too early a stage in the complaint for so great a change to have been suddenly effected—besides, many recover after laboring under these disturbances, accompanied by spasmodic affections, a rapid feeble pulse, shrunk and shrivelled features, and a cold and clammy-feeling skin. But if gangrene of the villous coat of the stomach, in a state of exfoliation, furnished the materials of these appearances, there would be no instances of recovery from such a calamitous situation.

3. These peculiar milky, flaky appearances, that are common in the evacuations of cholera patients, are not universal. It has been remarked of the black vomit in yellow fever, that though it was a common, it was not a universal symptom, and many have died in which the malady did not assume that peculiar form. It was not common at all, only in the last stages. There was also a great diversity of appearances in the matter voided, in relation to color, quantity, and consistence.

4. Dr. Cathrall's Memoir on the Analysis of the Black Vomit, ejected in the last stage of the Yellow Fever, is a valuable publication, from which we transcribe an extract, as containing something of an illustration of our ideas concerning the anomalous discharges in Cholera. The Black Vomit is described thus (p. 4—7)—“The black matter, or vomit, so called,” says

Dr. Cathrall, "appears to be of two kinds. One consisting of a number of black flaky particles, resembling the grounds of coffee; the other of a dark-colored, inspissated mucus. Of each of these, I shall give a separate description.

5. "The flaky discharge was always preceded by violent sickness and vomiting; and, as a precursor to the ejection of the matter, in some cases the patients vomited a *fluid like whey* or muddy water, or one consisting of a brown flaky substance, resembling chocolate or spoiled porter, mixed with brownish colored mucus.

6. "These substances were sometimes of a *lighter color*, and are suspended in a *glary yellow colored fluid*, which become nearly transparent when at rest, by the subsiding of a small number of brown particles. This colored matter was generally vomited in small quantities, and with considerable difficulty; but when the black flaky discharges commenced, they were frequently ejected in large quantities, and with similar force to a fluid from the action of an emetic."

7. "The mucus matter which was sometimes vomited in the Yellow Fever, and particularly in that which appeared in 1797, was very ropy, and of a black color. This matter floated on a fluid of a dark color, which appeared to receive its tinge from the coloring matter of the mucus.

8. "When this matter was agitated in a phial, the mucus showed no disposition to mix with the fluid part of the vomit, and when it was repeatedly washed in clear water, became nearly of the color of the mucus secreted in the alimentary canal. This black matter was discharged in large quantities, in the cases which proved mortal in 1797, and was a very inactive fluid

when applied to the most sensible parts of the healthy body, and was essentially different from the coffee-ground vomit."

9. At page 29th, and onward, our author proceeds to say, "The coloring matter of the vomit appears, from the authors already quoted, [in said memoir,] to be generally traced, after death, to the gall-bladder. This position being incontrovertibly established by dissections, the power of the liver to secrete that substance will be admitted, of course, as it could not be secreted by the gall-bladder, or transmitted into that viscous through any other passage, but by the hepatic duct. If this view of the subject be, in any measure, just, it is a fact, ascertained beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the black flaky substance of the vomit, is an altered secretion from the liver.— This matter, being secreted by the liver, and deposited by the hepatic duct in the gall bladder, in the last hours of this disease, is from thence forced, by the contraction of the gall-bladder and cystic duct, in conjunction with the violent action of vomiting, into the stomach. It there receives the addition of the yellow-colored fluid, which is almost always ejected with the flaky substance. That this fluid is combined with the flaky matter, in the stomach, and not in the gall-bladder, every inquiry into the appearances after death fully confirm.

10. This circumstance renders the yellow-colored fluid subject to some difference in its properties, according to the nature of the fluids received into the stomach a short time before vomiting; "but all," says the doctor, "that I have had an opportunity of examining, have nearly the appearance we have already described."

11. "That the secretory economy



of the liver may be so far arrested in its healthy action, by the progress of disease, as to assimilate a fluid having not the least analogy to bile, every work on morbid dissections certainly proves.—Lieutaud mentions a case from Rivalerius, in consequence of a diseased liver, where the fluid in the gall-bladder resembled milk. Stork relates a case of a dropsy succeeding an intermitting fever, where the fluid in the gall-bladder resembled the white of an egg. To these I may add, “says the Doctor,” one that came under my own observation, of a gentleman who died dropsical, in consequence of enlarged liver. The gall-bladder contained a fluid of a dark color, having not the least resemblance to bile.”

12. “These and many more cases, could be adduced, to prove the power of the liver, under certain circumstances, to secrete a *fluid dissimilar to bile*; but it would be needless to recite them, as the instances already quoted are no doubt sufficient to establish the fact.

13. “This peculiar condition of the secretory vessels, in the Yellow Fever, is not confined solely to the liver; for we find that other secretory functions are sometimes affected in a similar manner, during the same disease, and nearly at the same period of time.

14. “In confirmation of these observations, I believe most physicians must have remarked, that, in some cases, the kidneys, during the period of black vomiting, secrete a fluid of a dark color, which has a thick pellicle on its surface, and appears almost as different from urine as the black vomit does from bile. This discharge is generally a precursor to a symptom, which never fails to predict a speedy dissolution, viz: a paralysis of the secretory functions of the kidneys.

15. “The more I consider the natural change produced in the different secreting vessels, during the last stage of this disease, the more this theory appears to be supported by reason and the plausibility of truth. But, though a morbid condition of the glandular economy of the liver may produce the coffee-ground-colored vomit, it does not seem probable that the black inspissated mucus matter which was ejected in the cases that proved mortal in 1797, is derived from the same source; for the liver, under no condition of diseased action that we are acquainted with, is capable of secreting mucus of such an appearance; therefore, we think it most reasonable to refer it to the surfaces, which are diseased, in a state of health, to secrete mucus. Now, admitting the axiom, “similar causes produce similar effects, under similar circumstances,” why may not the glandular structure of the stomach be affected in a similar manner to that of the liver and kidneys, so as to enable it to secrete the mucus matter above mentioned? This opinion, I think, may be affirmed by other analogies, not only in the sthenic but in the asthenic condition of secreting surfaces, in which there are equally as great a deviation from healthy secretion as the one alluded to. This we have clearly exemplified in vessels destined to secrete mucus in a state of health; but, when laboring under inflammation, evidently secrete pus.”

16. From this long quotation, we discover, in connection with many other facts, that there is a striking analogy between Yellow Fever and Cholera. They are but a variety or diversity in the form of disease. They are both epidemic—both sudden in their attack, rapid in their progress, and remarkably fatal in their termination. What Dr

Clarke affirms of Yellow Fever, is eminently true of Cholera. "There appears," says he, "to have been such an extensive and very peculiar deranged state of the atmosphere in the towns of the West Indies and in North America, that it is more probable the disease was produced by this general cause breaking out nearly at the same time in those different places, than that it was carried from one to the other, either by persons or in any kinds of goods or merchandise." This gaseous poison, inhaled in respiration, involved in all the contents of the vascular system, extends a sedative influence to the heart, or occasions a subduction, or deprivation of stimulus, whereby its action becomes languid and impaired—the extremities are not sustained by their accustomed supplies, and the tide of life rolls back upon the fountain, leaving the extremities cold and in a state of incipient death.

17. We have long since come to the conclusion that Cholera, like our summer and autumnal fevers, was of miasmatic origin. The sentiments of Dr. Bancroft, in relation to Yellow Fever, appear to us to be correct, and to hold equally true in respect to epidemic Cholera. "Dr. Bancroft, is of opinion that the only existing cause of Yellow Fever, is the application of marsh miasmata to the human body, and that the disease is really a marsh remittent fever. He thinks himself justified, from repeated observations, in concluding that the joint influence of marsh miasmata, and of an atmosphere unusually and sufficiently heated, upon persons habituated to a cold or temperate climate, is, of itself, fully capable of causing an epidemic Yellow Fever, resembling that which has committed such ravages in the West Indies, the United States of America, and the South of Europe." "We are told by him," says Dr. Thomas, "that the common bilious remittent fever of hot climates, which is universally admitted to be the effects of miasmata, differs from the Yellow Fever only by being less violent; that, at the utmost, their symptoms only vary in degree, and, consequently, the danger being greater in the

latter than the former, for the yellow color appears in both."

18. The incipient or forming state of Cholera resembles the commencement of a remittent fever. The anxiety about the precordia, the depression, prostration, and coldness, are like the inducive chills of our epidemic remittents, differing only in the violence of the attack. Those who die of a remittent form of fever, die in the period of remission, or rather intermission, for death is a total extinction of heat, whether febrile or natural. In our remittents, in their milder form, the vital power is not so depressed as to prevent reaction, and there will be a repetition of paroxysms, until the powers of nature recover their tone, or, being overcome by long and repeated depression, the vis medicatrix natura becomes extinct, and death ensues.

19. Mr. James Kennedy, an English Surgeon, after describing the commencement of Cholera, as he witnessed its course in India, he observes, "If the disease be left to itself, or if it continue to advance in spite of the remedies that may have been used, the symptoms increase in severity, and the patient comes to suffer from violent cramps in the upper and lower limbs, and, at times, in the muscles of the chest and belly. The cramps in general are not constant, they recur at short intervals in paroxysms. The vomiting and purging are severe. The coldness of the skin has increased much; it feels moist, and is of a blueish color about the face, hands, and feet. The palms, and soles of the latter, appear corrugated, as if they had been steeped in water. The pulse is barely, or not at all to be detected in the wrists and temples. The countenance is ghastly and expressive of great anxiety. There is a distressing thirst, or burning heat, or pain in the region of the stomach and bowels.

20. If the disease be still uncontrolled, it will pass into the second stage.

*Second Stage.*—Under the increasing debility, the vomiting, purging and cramps, are subsiding, or have disappeared. The patient lies in a state of helpless exhaustion, and is almost incapable of making the slightest movement. He is apparently insensible; but as his senses remain unimpaired to the last, he may be roused to say "yes" or

"no." The pulse is gone, and even the action of the heart is extremely feeble. The surface of the body is deadly cold. The breathing is suppressed, or scarcely perceptible, and the countenance is quite cadaverous."

21. The remarks of Dr. Thomas, in relation to Yellow Fever, apply with equal force to our epidemic Cholera, as above described by Mr. Kennedy.— "Some," says he, "have imagined that the fever which has occasioned such devastation, is totally of a different nature from the Yellow Fever formerly met with in the West Indies and other tropical climates; but, in my opinion, it seems to be the same, and that its only difference consists in its having prevailed as an epidemic, from the subsisting vitiated state of the atmosphere, and from its having, from other concurring circumstances, acquired a degree of malignity and virulence unknown before."

22. Could any intelligent observing individual reach the reputed age of Mathusela, he would no doubt be able to recount, through his whole life, the periodical visitations of epidemic disease, under all the diversified forms of plague, cold plague, pestilential malignant fever, yellow fever, and cholera, that appear almost a novel occurrence in the modern records of medicine.

23. Lassitude, weariness, depression, chilliness, listlessness of the usual objects of gratification, nausea, intense thirst, morbid action of the vascular system, functional derangement of the glandular secretions, and various other coincident circumstances, are the universal precursors, or rather concomitants, of our epidemic state of disease, whatever great leading character it may assume. In yellow fever and cholera forms of disease, if neither art nor nature can produce reaction, the first stage will end in death.

24. The laws of the animal economy are not perfectly understood. The precise nature of that peculiar state, condition, constitution, or distemperature of the atmospheric air, that so diversifies the effects that succeed the miasmatic impression on the bodies of men, at different seasons, may forever remain inexplicable. But the faithful page of history records the facts by

which the miasmatic origin of our epidemic forms of disease appear to be abundantly confirmed.

25. Tremblings, subsultus tendinum, hiccuph, deafness, dimness of sight, stomachic distress, sinking of countenance, and general collapse attend the last stages of intermittent, remittent, bilious, typhoid, and every other form of fever. These occurrences in Cholera do not bespeak it a disease of an entire different origin and nature, but a state of disease, in a more virulent form, in which the vital powers are more suddenly and deeply depressed.

26. At the commencement of Cholera, the warm stream of life begins immediately to cool. Rapid advances are made towards a state of universal torpidity, and unless we can rouse the languid energies of declining nature, the lethargy of death will soon seize the whole system. Whatever is done for the patient, must be done quickly. As the disease commences with symptoms indicative of rapidly approaching dissolution. In all cases we have seen, the patient was sinking from the beginning, and nothing but active and powerful stimulants could give the most distant prospect of success.

27. In some cases the powers of life have been so strong, and combination of incidents has been so favorable for the generating or maintaining the vital heat, in defiance of the irrational and absurd recourse of some practitioners to the anti-phlogistic treatment, the patient has survived. But if any have recovered, under such management, we apprehend that they present us with specimens of such cases as, in all human probability, would have recovered sooner without any medical treatment whatever.

The validity of our opinion seems to stand immutable. It is predicated on the fact that, in all cases where Cholera has been met promptly by the remedies prescribed by Dr. Thomson, or even by his imitators, a remarkable success has attended their application. These are facts known, not only to ourselves, but to a vast proportion of the community who have been more extensively enlightened on the subject by a long train of recent events.

28. The Black Vomit in Yellow Fever, nor coffee-ground evacuations, were neither of them the cause of that fatal malady, neither can we consider the rice-water evacuations in Cholera a cause of the disease, but an effect of that peculiar impression of the specific power, whether you call it the gaseous oxyde of azote, *miasma'a*, or septic acid, that exist in the atmosphere, by which, under certain pre-disposing circumstances, or the influence of certain exciting causes, the Choleric form of disease is induced.

29. We do not expect to expel the ærial poison from the stomach by emetics, or from the bowels by cathartics. The deleterious gas is widely diffused through the whole system, detracting all the vital powers, arresting all the functional operations of the stomach, bowels, skin, liver, kidneys, the organs of digestion, in short, of the whole man. Our emetics, therefore, while they evacuate the stomach—and our injections, while they empty the bowels of any offensive or depressive contents, are designed to stimulate and rouse the whole system to a salutary action, and leave the organs of digestion unimpaired and unassailed. Among all emetics known, none can exceed Thomson's third preparation of *Lobelia*.—It evacuates the stomach promptly, and, while it rouses a healthy action, it is a powerful antispasmodic—propels the contents of the vascular system in their natural channel, that were receding from the extremities, and imparts an invigorating impulse to animal vitality.

30. Our remedies produce a reaction in the sinking powers of life, rouse the languid circulation, invigorate and warm the system on which the cold impress of disease has been deeply fastened, produce a determination to a shrinking, collapsing surface, restore the wanted energy to the secretory economy of the liver and the whole glandular system, give new tone to the digestive organs, inducing a counter impression to that of the septic poison. Their efficacy is too well known, when seasonably applied, to justify a resort, by way of experiment, to remedies, the reputation of which, to say the least, are of a doubtful character.

31. Those who would be more extensively and satisfactorily acquainted with the rationale of the Thomsonian System of Practice, would find ample remuneration for their labor, if they will be induced, frequently and attentively to consult Dr. Thomson's chapter of life, and his Cholera chapter, as they have appeared in the **RECORDER**, and as they are now appended to a recent edition of his "New Guide."

32. By consulting those philosophical disquisitions on the economy of animalization, you may ascertain with precision the minutiae of those principles that govern his practice.

33. In relation to medical prescriptions, we confidently believe the most safe and successful course now known, is to proceed minutely according to his directions: but such is the excellency of his system, such the power of his remedies, that any thing like a tolerable imitation of the prescriptions of our venerable preceptor, cannot fail to eclipse the glory of the mineral schools.

34. If, through a vain love of novelty, pride of heart, and thirst of a puerile ambition to establish a claim of originality and popular favor, the Botanic Practitioners do not wilfully go astray and abandon first principles, in their administrations, we shall confidently expect to find them in the van of all competitors for medical fame.

P. S. Many persons in whom the Cholera form of disease has been arrested, the deleterious effects of the original cause of disease remains with them for a season, in the form of remittent or intermittent fever. As it is usual for malignant, bilious remittent fevers of the summer months to subside or degenerate into autumnal agues, it appears that, by a similar law of nature, a Cholera attack frequently lingers with the patient in the same way, plainly intimating that their existence originates in the same common cause. That cause may, by some peculiar modification, make a more deadly and rapid impression on the human system at some seasons than at others. At one time the miasmata, in an æriform state, may, by certain chemical affinities, be so combined and associated with other substances, or excited into action by new and unusual successions in the changes

of weather, and ten thousand new variations and circumstantial differences in some great and general exciting cause, as to produce all that diversity of results found among the sick, from an extreme Cholera to an intermittent in its mildest form, embracing every conceivable intermediate variety, in the forms of disease incident to our climate.

It is worthy of remark that no unusual excess of heat and cold, wet and dry, suddenly succeeding each other, no extraordinary changes of any kind have ever passed over our country, without producing some deleterious impressions on the bodies of men—even brutes have not been always exempt.—Such extraordinary vicissitudes appear to be peculiarly favorable to the production and propagation of some epidemic form of disease: but such is the influence of soil, local situation, climate and season—such the preceding or present distemperature of the atmosphere, that no one can predict with certainty what form of disease will prevail until it appears.

Whatever form of disease has at any time prevailed to any considerable extent, every observing physician must have noticed a general impression made on the general health of the great mass of the community, who were not absolutely effected in the same manner as those were who were laboring under more decided and violent attacks of the predominant epidemic. They must also have observed the irregularity and obscurity of those complainings, and the utter impossibility of reducing them to any regular, systematic, pathological distinctions and divisions. Such has been, and such is, the condition of society among us at the present time—such those premonitory complainings that have preceded the attack of Cholera in many cases—such is the condition of many who have never been, and probably may not be, subject to a violent attack of disease of any kind; and such probably may be the condition of a number imperfectly recovered, in whom disease still lingers as an intruder, unwilling to be entirely dispossessed where a residence has been once obtained. Circumstances like these, loudly intimate an identity

of cause and a general identity of nature, in the great leading epidemic forms of disease that pay their periodical visits and desolate our country.

*Important remarks on Cholera, by Doctor Stephens.*

Dr. Stephens, a late writer, respectfully reviewed by our learned countryman, Dr. D. Drake, makes these important observations—"It was considered essentially necessary to keep a large fire, both night and day, in every room where there was a patient with Cholera. It is now well known that, in by far the majority of cases, the collapse commences betwixt two o'clock in the morning and six A. M., or, in other words, at the period of the twenty-four hours when the atmosphere is coolest: from which it appears that external cold acts as an exciting cause to the state of asphyxia. But independent of this, we have seen that the degree of force with which oxygen can remove carbonic acid, through the medium of a membrane, depends, in a great degree on the temperature of the two fluids. Now, when the temperature of the blood is so very low, as it is during the state of collapse, and if the air which the patient then breathes be also cold, the small quantity of carbonic acid which exists in the black venous blood, will not be attracted by the cold air, and consequently this of itself may be one cause of the sudden death."

From Hayden's Popular Medicine for Preserving Health.

*On the deleterious effects of Opium on young children.*

It is generally understood that the opium is deleterious to young children; but it is not so universally known as it ought to be, that exceedingly small quantities of opium, much smaller than would readily be believed, have sometimes destroyed the lives of children, and have often put them in great hazard.

One grain and a half of Dover's powder, which contains scarcely the sixth of a grain of opium, frightened the mother of a child exceedingly, by producing a continual sleep in the child for nearly two days. In another case



where a grain only of Dover's powder was given, with half a grain of calomel, to stop a bowel complaint under which the child's strength was rapidly sinking, although it evidently saved its life, yet the profound sleep which it occasioned, and the deadly paleness which appeared in the child's countenance induced considerable apprehension that the remedy would have done what it prevented the disease from accomplishing.

The first of these children was a stout but very small infant of eight months old, the other was a weakly baby of little more than three weeks old.

It may be said that in both these cases a large quantity of opium was given, considering the age of the children; but there are instances on record where life has been lost in fine healthy infants from the exhibition of a single teaspoon full of syrup of poppies. In the following case, however, the deleterious effect of a much smaller quantity of opium than that is very apparent:

A lady had been accustomed to give her infants, when they were cross, a mixture, each tea-spoonful of which contained one-sixth of a drop of laudanum combined with rhubarb. At the birth of one of her children, she purchased a fresh bottle of medicine, and, at different times, gave more than an ounce of it before the child was six weeks old. At this time, in consequence of improper feeding, the child's bowels became much deranged; its flesh was wasted and its countenance was far less healthy than before. Under these circumstances, a tea-spoonful was given to the child early in the morning; it was repeated at night, and again the next morning. A short time after this, although the child had taken no more, in the three doses, than half a drop of laudanum, and that distributed over more than twenty-four hours, it sunk into the deepest sleep, so that it hardly seemed to breathe at all; the appearance of its countenance was a mixture of yellow and dark-colored paleness, and the medical attendant, as well as its parents was much alarmed, especially as the quantity of laudanum appeared to be by no means sufficient to produce so great an effect, and, therefore, it seemed probable that some other urgent cause of evil was acting on the child's constitution.

The symptoms gradually subsided, and, as the mother had by this time learned that quieting the child's uncomfortable sensations by opium, was a bad substitute for giving it the food which nature intended it to have, she procured a wet nurse for her infant, and it thus soon recovered its perfect health and spirits.

This case is particularly instructive; not only because it shows how small a quantity of opium may endanger the life of a child, but because it explains how these small quantities will produce so great an effect at one time and not at another. Whilst the child was in stronger health it repeatedly took the same medicine without inconvenience, but immediately that its health and strength became impaired to a certain point, the medicine took effect, and it thus narrowly escaped death.

Even medical men may receive much instruction by this lesson; but it should not fail to teach mothers that they should on no account give opium to their children, except under the direction of those who are alone able to judge of the state of the constitution in which it may or may not be given with safety to a child.

#### BALTIMORE, JULY 24.

We may expect every "now and then" to hear such favorable reports as the following, which went the rounds, stating that no person in West Chester needed the assistance of the Physician! Egad, well may the Doctors! circulate such reports when they see all hands turning to be Thomsonians and their own Doctors. *We* are thinking it would be good policy for rich men to learn their sons trades, instead of making Doctors of them, for we fear it will be a dull business after a while, as the Thomsonian System is gaining ground so fast.—Ed. Adv

INTERESTING.—The village of West Chester seems to be a favored place. A respectable physician stated to the Editor of the Democrat, on the 11th ult.; that, at that time, there was not an individual in the borough, young or old, that required his attendance.—West Chester has a population of fifteen hundred.

"no." The pulse is gone, and even the action of the heart is extremely feeble. The surface of the body is deadly cold. The breathing is suppressed, or scarcely perceptible, and the countenance is quite cadaverous."

21. The remarks of Dr. Thomas, in relation to Yellow Fever, applies with equal force to our epidemic Cholera, as above described by Mr. Kennedy.— "Some," says he, "have imagined that the fever which has occasioned such devastation, is totally of a different nature from the Yellow Fever formerly met with in the West Indies and other tropical climates; but, in my opinion, it seems to be the same, and that its only difference consists in its having prevailed as an epidemic, from the subsisting vitiated state of the atmosphere, and from its having, from other concurring circumstances, acquired a degree of malignity and virulence unknown before."

22. Could any intelligent observing individual reach the reputed age of Matusela, he would no doubt be able to recount, through his whole life, the periodical visitations of epidemic disease, under all the diversified forms of plague, cold plague, pestilential malignant fever, yellow fever, and cholera, that appear almost a novel occurrence in the modern records of medicine.

23. Lassitude, weariness, depression, chilliness, listlessness of the usual objects of gratification, nausea, intense thirst, morbid action of the vascular system, functional derangement of the glandular secretions, and various other coincident circumstances, are the universal precursors, or rather concomitants, of our epidemic state of disease, whatever great leading character it may assume. In yellow fever and cholera forms of disease, if neither art nor nature can produce reaction, the first stage will end in death.

24. The laws of the animal economy are not perfectly understood. The precise nature of that peculiar state, condition, constitution, or distemperature of the atmospheric air, that so diversifies the effects that succeed the miasmatic impression on the bodies of men, at different seasons, may forever remain inexplicable. But the faithful page of history records the facts by

which the miasmatic origin of our epidemic forms of disease appear to be abundantly confirmed.

25. Tremblings, subsultus tendinum, hiccuph, deafness, dimness of sight, stomachic distress, sinking of countenance, and general collapse attend the last stages of intermittent, remittent, bilious, typhoid, and every other form of fever. These occurrences in Cholera do not bespeak it a disease of an entire different origin and nature, but a state of disease, in a more virulent form, in which the vital powers are more suddenly and deeply depressed.

26. At the commencement of Cholera, the warm stream of life begins immediately to cool. Rapid advances are made towards a state of universal torpidity, and unless we can rouse the languid energies of declining nature, the lethargy of death will soon seize the whole system. Whatever is done for the patient, must be done quickly. His disease commences with symptoms indicative of rapidly approaching dissolution. In all cases we have seen, the patient was sinking from the beginning, and nothing but active and permanent stimulants could give the most distant prospect of success.

27. In some cases the powers of life have been so strong, and combination of incidents has been so favorable for the generating or maintaining the vital heat, in defiance of the irrational and absurd recourse of some practitioners to the anti-phlogistic treatment, the patient has survived. But if any have recovered, under such management, we apprehend that they present us with specimens of such cases as, in all human probability, would have recovered sooner without any medical treatment whatever.

The validity of our opinion seems to stand immutable. It is predicated on the fact that, in all cases where Cholera has been met promptly by the remedies prescribed by Dr. Thomson, or even by his imitators, a remarkable success has attended their application. These are facts known, not only to ourselves, but to a vast proportion of the community who have been more extensively enlightened on the subject by a long train of recent events.

28. The Black Vomit in Yellow Fever, nor coffee-ground evacuations, were neither of them the cause of that fatal malady, neither can we consider the rice-water evacuations in Cholera a cause of the disease, but an effect of that peculiar impression of the specific power, whether you call it the gaseous oxyde of azote, *miasma*, or septic acid, that exist in the atmosphere, by which, under certain pre-disposing circumstances, or the influence of certain exciting causes, the Choleric form of disease is induced.

29. We do not expect to expel the ærial poison from the stomach by emetics, or from the bowels by cathartics. The deleterious gas is widely diffused through the whole system, deranging all the vital powers, arresting all the functional operations of the stomach, bowels, skin, liver, kidneys, the organs of digestion, in short, of the whole man. Our emetics, therefore, while they evacuate the stomach—and our injections, while they empty the bowels of any offensive or depressive contents, are designed to stimulate and rouse the whole system to a salutary action, and leave the organs of digestion unimpaired and unassailed. Among all emetics known, none can exceed Thomson's third preparation of *Lobelia*.—It evacuates the stomach promptly, and, while it rouses a healthy action, it is a powerful antispasmodic—propels the contents of the vascular system in their natural channel, that were receding from the extremities, and imparts an invigorating impulse to animal vitality.

30. Our remedies produce a reaction in the sinking powers of life, rouse the languid circulation, invigorate and warm the system on which the cold impress of disease has been deeply fastened, produce a determination to a shrinking, collapsing surface, restore the wonted energy to the secretory economy of the liver and the whole glandular system, give new tone to the digestive organs, inducing a counter impression to that of the septic poison. Their efficacy is too well known, when seasonably applied, to justify a resort, by way of experiment, to remedies, the reputation of which, to say the least, are of a doubtful character.

31. Those who would be more extensively and satisfactorily acquainted with the rationale of the Thomsonian System of Practice, would find ample remuneration for their labor, if they will be induced, frequently and attentively to consult Dr. Thomson's chapter of life, and his Cholera chapter, as they have appeared in the *RECORDER*, and as they are now appended to a recent edition of his "New Guide."

32. By consulting those philosophical disquisitions on the economy of animalization, you may ascertain with precision the minutiae of those principles that govern his practice.

33. In relation to medical prescriptions, we confidently believe the most safe and successful course now known, is to proceed minutely according to his directions: but such is the excellency of his system, such the power of his remedies, that any thing like a tolerable imitation of the prescriptions of our venerable preceptor, cannot fail to eclipse the glory of the mineral schools.

34. If, through a vain love of novelty, pride of heart, and thirst of a puerile ambition to establish a claim of originality and popular favor, the Botanic Practitioners do not wilfully go astray and abandon first principles, in their administrations, we shall confidently expect to find them in the van of all competitors for medical fame.

P. S. Many persons in whom the Cholera form of disease has been arrested, the deleterious effects of the original cause of disease remains with them for a season, in the form of remittent or intermittent fever. As it is usual for malignant, bilious remittent fevers of the summer months to subside or degenerate into autumnal agues, it appears that, by a similar law of nature, a Cholera attack frequently lingers with the patient in the same way, plainly intimating that their existence originates in the same common cause. That cause may, by some peculiar modification, make a more deadly and rapid impression on the human system at some seasons than at others. At one time the miasmata, in an æriform state, may, by certain chemical affinities, be so combined and associated with other substances, or excited into action by new and unusual successions in the changes

very of truth, and the bestowing benefits and blessings upon society, which induced men to sacrifice all their common enjoyments and all their privileges as citizens, to these exertions — Anaxagoras, Archimedes, Roger Bacon, Galileo Galilei, in their deaths, or their imprisonments, offer instances of this kind, and nothing can be more striking than what appears to have been the ingratitude of men towards their greatest benefactors.

**Real Improvement.**—In the progress of society, all great and real improvements are perpetuated; the same corn which, four thousand years ago, was raised from an improved grass, by an inventor worshipped for two thousand years in the ancient world under the name of Ceres, still forms the principal food of mankind; and the potato, perhaps the greatest benefit the old has derived from the new world, has spread over Europe, and will continue to nourish an extensive population, when the name of the race by whom it was first cultivated in South America is forgotten.

### HOPS.

[*Humulus Lupulus.*] The hops, though found in other countries, is a native of our own. It grows wild in the Atlantic States, and was found by Mr. Nuttall on the banks of the Missouri. On the medical properties and uses of hops. [the dried strobiles,] a judicious and able writer observes—“they are narcotic, tonic, diuretic; and, externally applied, anodyne and discutient. Their use, as a preservative of beer, has been long known. They are also said to possess the power of procuring sleep in the delirium of fever, and in mania, [madness,] when used as a pillow; and, owing to this effect having been confirmed in the case of the late King, George the Third, their efficacy, as a general narcotic, when introduced into the stomach, has been investigated.” Dr. Matan observed, that besides allaying pains and producing sleep, the preparations of hops reduce the frequency of the pulse, and increase its firmness in a very direct manner.

One drachm of the tincture and four grains of the extract, given once in six hours, reduced the pulsation from 96 to

60, in 24 hours. He found the extract exceedingly efficacious in allaying the pains of articular rheumatism, viz. Rheumatism of the joints. “But,” the writer adds, “our own experience has not afforded us sufficient proof of its utility as a sedative. A pillow stuffed with hops, has long been a popular remedy for hysterical restlessness, disturbed sleep, and night-mare, to compose and calm nervous disquietude. It certainly possesses some diuretic qualities. By habitual use, hops lose much of their sensible effects upon the system. Painful swellings and tumors have been much relieved by a fomentation and the bruised and scalded hops laid warm on the diseased part. An ointment composed of hops and lard, is recommended by Mr. Freake, as an anodyne application to cancerous sores. The hops may be given in form of powder, infusion, tincture or extract. Dr. Ives asserts that the virtues of this article exist in the pallen, or yellow powder, by some called lupulin, which is easily obtained by rubbing, beating and sifting.

### INDIAN BALM, *alias*,

Berth-Root, Beth-Root, [*Trillium Rhum Boydum*, *Trillium Latifolium*.] &c.

There are said to be several varieties of this indigenous plant, that so nearly resemble each other in their exterior appearance and in medical virtues, that they may be prudently substituted, one for another, and used without reference to any botanic distinction. Its wrinkled, bulbous, brown-colored root, is short and thick, with many fibres hanging from it, is white within. Its smooth stalk or stem rises from six to eight or ten inches in height. On the top of each stalk, three oval-shaped leaves appear, and a bell-shaped, purplish, variegated blossom sits above the leaves. Among the varieties of this plant, the difference in the color of the flower deserves attention. Some are red, some are purple, some white, and some mixed. In cases of immoderate flow of the catamenia, (menses,) hemorrhages in general, diarrhoea, dysentery, and whenever astringents are proper, this root will be found useful. It may be used in decoction, or may be pul-

Verized and taken in substance. It has been found serviceable in cases of bloody urine and catarrhal affections. In *flour albus*, it may be injected into the vagina. The powdered root, or the fish root bruised, may be applied to ficoid ill-conditioned ulcerations with great propriety. Dr. Henry recommends a tea-spoonful of the powdered root several times in a day, for spitting of blood and excessive menstruation.— If the system be properly prepared by emetics and injections, or a previous Thomsonian course, from our own experience, and much respectable testimony, we have confidence that this article is worthy of trial, especially when the practitioner has not other effectual means at hand, or where other remedies have been used without the desired effect. Several astringents combined, appear to aid each other, in many instances, when they will not succeed alone; in such cases, this will be found a valuable auxiliary.

### INDIGO WEED,

Or Wild Indigo, called Horsefly-Weed, and Indigo Broom, and many other names, is supposed to be exclusively an American production. In Dr. Cutlar's catalogue, it is called [Indigo Fera] It is sometimes known by the simple name of Broom. It grows abundantly in all the Northern States. It is also found in Pennsylvania, the western parts of Virginia, and in Ohio.— The largest quantities we have ever seen are found growing on the plains of Sandusky. The root survives through the winter: hence it is said to be perennial. It is woody and of an irregular shape. Externally the color is a very bark brown inclining to black. Its taste is rather nauseous, similar to that of the wandering milk weed. The stalk rises to two feet or more in height, and from each main stalk proceed many long and slender branches, smooth, round, and of a yellowish green color. The leaves are small and numerous, smooth, invariably heart shaped, the narrowest end being next the stem. In July and August, all its branches display butterfly-shaped, golden-colored blossoms, which render the plant very conspicuous. To these succeed the seed-vessels containing many seeds.— This plant has been used by many from

our earliest recollection, but we remember to have seen but little published on the subject that gave much satisfaction. We have little confidence in it as an internal remedy, while so many articles of tried value fill the place it is said to occupy. As an external remedy for incipient gangreen, and ill-conditioned sores, as a wash, fomentation or poultice, we have much faith. It has in this way been successfully tested.— The tea, used as a gargle and as a fomentation in sore throat attending scarlet fever, or canker rash, has been attended with the happiest effects—and the plant mashed and boiled down, so as to make a poultice, with the addition of a cracker pounded fine, or, in want thereof, a little light bread, or even wheat-bran, and applied to the throat or to ulcerated sores has often answered a valuable purpose. Some bruise the fresh leaves, and to half a pound add one pound of fresh butter, which they melt, and then simmer together, and finally, bring to a boil, until the leaves begin to crisp, then they strain and press it through a cloth and add beeswax, at the rate of two ounces for every pint of the strained ointment, and melt, and, when removed from the fire, stir until it begins to cool. This is used also to annoint sore throats and ill-conditioned sores.

### INDIAN TURNIP—*Wake Robin*.

[*Arum Triphyllum*.] Persons laboring under a phthisical indisposition, or consumptive habit, and lung cough, have found much benefit by boiling the wake-robbin root in milk and water, sweetening the decoction with loaf sugar: it is very useful to loosen a cough and comfort the stomach. It is a suitable drink to wash down cough powders and other medicine used for similar purposes.

### JUNIPER.

The common Juniper, [*Juniperus Communis*] is an evergreen shrub, a native of the United States. It grows also on heaths and hilly grounds in all parts of Europe. The berries are brought from Holland and from Italy. Description is useless. The berries and the essential oil are stimulating, carminative and diuretic. Hence their



use in expelling wind in flatulent cholera, and removing urinary obstructions. Compounded with other diuretic articles, they have been found useful in dropsical affections. The tops and berries, in strong decoction, frequently operate lively as a diuretic.

### SASSAFRAS,

Or [Laurus Sassafras.]

"This species of Laurel," says an intelligent writer, "is a native of North America and Cochin China. It is cultivated in Jamaica, and withstands the cold of our climate, [England,] so as to be frequently reared in gardens as an ornamental shrub. The flowers appear in May and June." In America this shrub rises to a tree sometimes thirty or forty feet in height.—The largest we have seen grew in Pennsylvania, near the Monongahela river. The bark of the root has a more fragrant odour, and a more lively aromatic taste than the wood or the bark of the tree. It is sometimes used as a stimulant and diuretic, and the decoction has been substituted for tea and coffee. It is by many accounted pleasant to the taste; but, in its medicinal powers, we have not much confidence, unless it be in form of a poultice to prevent the attack, or arrest the progress of mortification. The essential oil destroys lice of every description: But a strong solution of Camphor in Alcohol is a more efficient and agreeable application, and, in a very short time, produces the desired effect.—Some have made an extensive use of sassafras for cutaneous affections, but we could never be satisfied of its extraordinary powers for such difficulties—beside, its long-continued use evidently induces debility, though its primary effects have been accounted moderately tonic. We have had repeated trials of the pith and the young, tender, bruised tops, made into a mucilage with water for sore and inflamed eyes, but could very seldom, if ever, obtain more than a temporary, transient benefit, by the most diligent application.

### LOBELIA INFLATA.

So much having been said and written on the subject of Lobelia, it may be thought superfluous to add any thing

more; but such is its importance in the Thomsonian Practice that it should be universally known, and its virtues understood. It has been called Indian Tobacco, but this name more properly belongs to another plant of the same order. It is called Emetic Weed, Puke Weed, Asthma Weed, &c. Professor R. Nesque informs that the genus Lobelia is dedicated to Lobel, an old botanist. It contains a great variety of species, fifteen of which grow in the U. States. Whoever consults Dr. Thompson's description of [Lobelia Thomsoniana], as we shall now call it, need not be mistaken. We are astonished to detect the profound ignorance of R. Nesque with regard to the genuine qualities of this strictly Thomsonian medicine. In him we behold the scholar, the gentleman, and erudite professor, but not a Thomsonian. The most illiterate of the Thomsonians could tell him interesting truths concerning its innocency, efficacy, and superiority to all the emetics the schools of physic ever knew. The Faculty everywhere allowed it to be Thomson's Lobelia, and a deadly poison, and prosecuted him as a murderer, until the fame of this GIGANTIC SAMSON of Thomsonianism worked its way and established a reputation as the most valuable and efficient emetic ever known. No sooner is its character established, than these inconsistent opposers strive to rob him of the fame of his discovery, and tell us about the Indians having some knowledge of its properties. They give insolent assertions without data. Will gentlemen tell us what Indian used it as an emetic, as a remedy for asthma, as an expectorant of anti-spasmodic, for hydrophobia, &c. What was the Indian's name? Where did he reside? To what tribe did he belong? How did he prepare it? Did he give it in powder, tincture, or infusion? Was he a warrior chief, or was this Indian a squaw? Our medical antiquarians may find business for a century to come, if they will pursue the inquiry, and then they will find, that some learned professor heard of an Indian that saw an Indian that heard of an Indian that heard another Indian say, he could not give any satisfactory information on the subject.

Like Thomson, we have given it to the young infant, and to the man of years, and have ever found it a most extraordinary, efficacious medicine, when given as an emetic, or in form of an injection. In whooping cough, by giving it so as to produce vomiting every morning, the cough will subside in a short time. In obstinate cases, a course of medicine will greatly facilitate the cure. Boiling water greatly impairs, and will soon destroy its emetic quality. Hence it may be compounded with other articles, and boiled and used safely and beneficially as an alterative. If the stomach is very sour, it will not readily operate as an emetic. In such cases, a dose of pearlsh water, or what is called *sul aeratus*, a pleasant preparation of pearlsh, will neutralize the acid, and the emetic will then operate. Sometimes a dose of the Cayenne, or any of the heating medicine will put it in motion; so will injections of the third preparation. When the mouth and throat are dry, the tincture will not readily operate; the infusion will be found to succeed better. We have given it, and known of its having been given in large doses, and frequently repeated, but never were able to discover any of those narcotic and debilitous effects, of which those complain who never gave a dose in their lives. We consider it the safest emetic to be put into domestic hands, that can be used, and are persuaded that the most experienced scarcely know how highly they ought to appreciate its virtues.— It has been recommended in some shape or other, says Rafinesque, for almost every disease; but those for which it is most efficient, are spasmodic asthma, bronchial cough, tetanus or lockjaw, and strangulated hernia. In asthma particularly, it appears to be almost a specific.” “It has lately been introduced in Europe, and as a remedy for this complaint, and with decided advantage.” It is not naturally a cathartic, but when drawn in lukewarm water and taken cold and gradually, it will sometimes appear to act as a laxative—given this way in Thomsonian injections, the discharges from the bowels will be copious. In lockjaw, the tincture should be perseveringly administered; but large and repeated injections

of hot or cold infusion, or Thomson's third preparation will relax the spasm. The cold infusion operates as certainly as the warm; nervous affections generally, St. Vitus's Dance, fits, convulsions, &c. yield, to its medicinal powers.

The Lobelia Inflata, in our estimation, is more deserving of the reputation of a universal remedy than any other article ever yet enrolled in the vocabulary of medicine. As an alterative in diseased declining habits, for coughs, pains in the breast, and functional derangements of stomach and bowels, it ranks high with all those persons who have ever tested its excellence.

It should be interwoven and associated with the whole routine of our remedial prescriptions, in some way or other, in almost every varied form of disease incident to human nature.

As an alterative, the progressive regulation of the dose in the use thereof, can be more correctly adjusted by taking it in its tincture than in any other form.

A patient using it as an alterative, may commence with five or six drops of a saturated tincture, morning, noon, and night. He should increase one or two drops in the dose regularly on each succeeding day, until a considerable degree of nausea be produced. In liver affections, enlargement of the spleen, &c., the dose should be kept up to the sensibly nauseating point, until these preternatural enlargements begin to recede; yes, until all appearances of these troublesome swellings, or ague cakes, as they are sometimes called, be completely removed.

### NETTLE.

[*Urtica Diocia.*]

This and the *Urtica Urens*, or small stinging Nettle, are common in many sections of the country. It grows in rich lands, by road-sides, in deserted fields, and by waste fences. It flowers in July and August. The nettle roots are accounted astringent, diuretic and depurative, or a cleansing, purifying medicine.

A strong decoction sweetened may be used freely for gravel and all urinary obstructions, in cases of bloody urine

and spitting of blood. The root chewed in the mouth, or finely powdered and snuffed up the nose, stops bleeding. Dr. Henry observes, "The fresh juice may be taken in all the above complaints, in a dose of from two to four ounces, twice a day. Excessive corpulency may be reduced by taking a few grains of nettle seed made into powder, by taking from one to two drachms of the powder, every night and morning, it will cure the goitre, (big neck,) without injuring the stomach or health." It may be worthy of trial in this latter difficulty, but we cannot say any thing from experience. We should have more confidence in a course of medicine, repeated every few days, and rubbing the tumor effectually with the third preparation, and wearing a cloth dipped therein constantly to the neck, and using the same medicine frequently as a gargle. By a course somewhat similar, we have succeeded in the removal of that form of disease, before we were fully confirmed in the Thomsonian faith.

#### YELLOW POPLAR.

Tulip Tree, Whitwood, and, in the Eastern States, sometimes, improperly called Cypress Tree. This large, tall, and beautiful forest tree, is a well-known native of the United States. It is called American Poplar. Its large bell-shaped blossoms appear in the middle of May.

The bark of the root of yellow poplar, [*Liriodendron Tulipifera*,] is the part used for medical purposes. It is best obtained in the month of February. It is an aromatic, mildly astringent bitter. Finely pulverized and given in doses of a tea spoonful, more or less, according to the age and circumstances of the patient, proves a useful tonic in ague and fever. It may be given by itself, or combined with aromatics and other tonic remedies. In the Cholera Infantum, or summer complaint, affecting the bowels of children, it has been successfully employed. A physician of some eminence in Philadelphia, has left us this testimony, "It appears to be an excellent vermifuge. I have never known it fail in a single case of worms which has come under my observation. I prescribed it for a child when convul-

sions had taken place. After a few doses, several hundreds of dead ascarides, [small white worms,] were discharged with the stools." For dysenteric, dyspeptic, and hysterical affections, it has been with some in high repute. It may be given in substance or in decoction. It is often an extensive prescription, entering into composition with other materials for stomachic bitters, prescribed in cases of debility and indigestion. The stomach and intestines should always be evacuated before the use of remedies of this description. A regular course of medicine is the best preparation in which we can resort.

#### QUAKING ASP.

[*Populus Tremula*]

Called the Aspen Tree, Quaking Asp and Poplar. We merely note this to distinguish it from the Liriodendron, or Yellow Poplar. The Aspen is the Poplar of Dr. Thomson, the bark of which has acquired much fame in Thomsonian practice. His word is sufficient to conduct us to the knowledge of its extensive usefulness.

#### QUEEN OF THE MEADOW.

Or Gravel Root, [*Epatorium Purpurium*.] This plant has been distinguished Queen of the Meadow, for its peculiar beauty, and Gravel Root, for its well known efficacy in promoting a flow of urine in cases of stranguary and gravelly obstructions. Its smooth round stalk, which is of redish purple color and slightly changeable, especially about the joints, rise from three to five feet in height. Its long, large, jagged, rather spear-shaped leaves stand opposite to each other.

Half a pound of the roots bruised and boiled in a gallon of soft water, and reduced to two quarts, drinking a tea cupful every two or three hours, is a diuretic useful in gravel, seminal gleets, female weaknesses, urinary and dronical obstructions. The tea should be used warm when employed as a diuretic, and cold for cases of debility. Reduced to a fine powder, it may be used by itself, or be combined with tonics, for female complaints. Its liberal use should be preceded by a course of medicine.

*The Senses fallible Witnesses.*—When we bathe in the sea, or in a cold bath, we are accustomed to consider the water as colder than the air, and the air colder than the clothes which surround us. Now all these objects are, in fact, at the same temperature. A thermometer surrounded by the cloth of our coat, or suspended in the atmosphere, or immersed in the sea, will stand at the same temperature.—A linen shirt, when first put on, will feel colder than a cotton one, and a flannel shirt will actually feel warm; yet all these have the same temperature. The sheets of the bed feel cold, and blankets feel warm; the blankets and sheets, however, are equally warm. A still calm atmosphere, in summer, feels warm, but if a wind arises, the same atmosphere feels cool. Now, a thermometer suspended under shelter, and in a calm place, will indicate exactly the same temperature as the thermometer on which the wind blows.

[*Cabinet Cyclopædia.*]

### NEGROES.

The colored people are almost exempt from Cholera attacks, and there are very few deaths among them. Last fall they suffered more in proportion than the whites. Now, what does this suggest? Is it not an evidence that the chief exciting cause of the increase is the intense heat that overpowers the whites but never oppresses the blacks. I can think of no other explanation; and, if this be correct, should it not teach us to avoid exposure to the sun by every possible means?—*Ibid.*

*Hail Storm.*—A letter from Saint George, situated to the South of Montreal, dated the 3d instant, states, that the hail stones, or rather pieces of ice, which fell there in the storm of the 1st of this month, were some of them six inches in length and five in circumference; 212 panes of glass were broken in Mr. Languedoc's dwelling house, and 150 in his mill. The crops in the neighborhood are entirely destroyed.—A person reports that one of these pieces of ice being split with an axe was found to contain a fine sprig of moss—

[*Canadian.*]

ARKANSAS.—From the Washington Globe, we learn that the rains have brought upon this young and thriving territory a devastation like that which marked the overflowing of the Ohio last year. The misfortune is, that danger does not subside with the floods.—The great overflow of waters at this hot season of the year, brings, as a consequence, disease as fatal to human existence, as the deluge itself to vegetable life.

### PROGRESS OF LEARNING.

We copy the following toasts from the Daily Herald, Louisville:

“By James W. Chambers.—Common Schools—a goodly place for idlers, but a course to learners.”

“By Wm. Bull.—Free Schools—False philanthropy—Where is the man who cannot educate his child.”

That such toasts should be offered at this day in the United States, and that, too, on the 4th of July, is marvelous indeed.

Upon what foundations do our free institutions rest? Are they built upon ignorance and vice, or do they stand upon the adamant foundation of intelligence and virtue?

There are two classes of individuals to whom a well organized and successful system of common schools gives unutterable annoyance; the aristocracy of wealth and the aristocracy of literature. The one grudges the mite which the law demands of his pelf, and the other is envious of the light which bursts with rival splendor, from the poor and humble walks of life. The one may oppose, and the other may sneer, but the system will march forward in its triumphs over prejudice and error, dispensing its blessing to individuals and communities, and to the nation, and to the world, in widening the base and strengthening the foundation of our free and happy government.

[*Cin. Gaz.*]

“When I was a young man,” says John Wesley, “I was sure of every thing,” but in a few years, finding myself mistaken in a thousand instances, I became not half so sure of most things as before.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE RECORDER.

## A VOICE FROM NEW YORK.

Messrs. Editors:—In my estimation *truth* is the most important object to which human attention can direct its pursuit. It is the leading desire of my mind that it should every where prevail. Whenever thoroughly convinced of any important truth, whether pertaining to religious, medical, or political subjects, it has ever been my course to espouse it, on account of its own intrinsic value. Having embraced truth, I cannot be persuaded to abandon it; on the contrary, my feeble talents are ever devoted to its propagation, and my whole mind intent on its final triumph.

It is my intention, in this brief communication, to present you, fully and explicitly, my views and feelings, as I have leisure and language to express, in relation to the interesting subject of Thomsonianism. I feel engaged for the truth: its diffusion and defence is my object. Truth is my text, as we find recorded on the pages of the illustrious founder of the new philosophy, and the great Botanic Institution in the United States.

I would not wish to be an egotist, but I sincerely think myself in some good degree qualified to judge righteous judgment in this matter. I have had an opportunity of perusing most of the accessible authors, both ancient and modern, who have written on medical subjects. Yes, sir, and I have seen and given many of their prescriptions, wielded the sharpened steel, and applied the vesicating cantharides. When I now calmly reflect upon the subject, I could gladly hide my blushing face in solitude and retirement. At that time, as you may readily suppose, I was seriously biassed and bewildered in the dark thunder-cloud of medical delirium—the sheer mention of a steam doctor was unpleasant and disgusting in my prejudiced ear. What, said I, shall this ignorant steamer who knows nothing of the anatomy of man, and has not studied Physiology, Pathology, Chemistry, Therapeutics, &c. Shall

these quacks teach us, who have made these sciences our constant study for many long and tedious years? No! Away with them! crucify them! crucify them! But, sir, I now feel thankful to my God, that, through the influence of a kind brother, and various concurring circumstances, I was constrained to read, examine, and investigate attentively, the medical philosophy of Dr. Thomson, and learn those great and distinguishing principles that govern his practice. I think I can boldly defy any intelligent man to cast all prejudice aside, and, with that candor of mind that will honestly yield to the conviction of truth, independent of every minor consideration, search the works of Dr. Thomson, and withhold the palm of preference, compared with all he may have seen beside, as the grand fundamentals of medical information. I have found his writings to be based upon the broad and praiseworthy throne of reason, common sense, and sound philosophy.

We presume he has never read the works of Galen; yea, it is more than probable that he never has even seen them; yet, the man of reading knows, there is a remarkable coincidence in their sentiments, in regard to the great philosophic principles on which their respective systems of medical philosophy are based.

After reading and pondering, I at length came to the conclusion that I would enter a steam doctor's office, to make the attempt to unlearn error, and be taught wisdom, reason, and truth—I was particularly desirous to see the excellency and superiority of Doctor Thomson's theory, which was so much talked about and by many spoken against, demonstrated by practice. But, sir, you can scarcely conceive how the spirit of superstitious credulity and unreasonable persecution raged and foamed. Thanks to kind heaven, I was prepared for the attack, and, therefore, heeded it not. The storm of oppressive opposition was raised, and blew a heavy gale. My old preceptor cried "vain! ruin!" My venerable father, with tears in his eyes, besought, begged, and, with many zealous entreaties, said—"Your prospects are now flattering, will you abandon them all, and



render yourself despicable by espousing quackery? Anathemas in abundance were heaped upon my head. Notwithstanding all this, I proceeded steadfast in the truth. I was daily more and more convinced of the superiority of this new and inestimable system, by witnessing the salutary effects of the medicine; ye, even upon those who had been surrendered to the grim messenger of the Rushite and the regular quack.

I will here just mention the case of my father: he had been an asthmatic for 35 years, and for seven years had pretty much abandoned the ordinary pursuit of the common business of life. Doctor after Doctor had been consulted, the lancet wielded, blisters applied; Emetic Tartar and Rush's Samson of medicine [Calomel] rapidly administered; but, alas! without producing the desired effect, or presenting any prospect of a cure! Opium in turn was resorted to, but all these means proved ineffectual. His was, indeed, a distressing case. Sometimes for thirty days and nights in succession, he would not attempt to lie down for repose, as it was expected that each of the paroxysms, fits or turns, as they occurred, would be his last.

We will now come to the sequel of the story. After I had been engaged in practice upon the Thomsonian System about a year, a letter was handed me, (for I was 45 miles from my parental roof,) stating that the life of my dear father was despaired of, and his dissolution hourly expected. With final steps I hastened homeward. When I arrived it was my impression he could survive but a few hours. I felt in my heart that he was a kind father; and, as a son intent upon his welfare, I administered the second preparation of Dr. Thomson's No. 1. He vomited freely! Thanks to Almighty God! He has had no more of the asthma since.

It is now three years since this memorable event transpired: to hear him tell at this period, with tears in his eyes, how, by my perseverance, even against a father's will, has enlarged the sphere of his enjoyments and prolonged his years, causes a strange impulse of joy inexpressible to thrill this earthly tenement of mine.

For the two last years I have been in practice with Dr. F. Lapham, in the village of Poughkeepsie, and, through the importunity of our numerous friends in this section of the country, I was induced to locate here in April last. Since the 20th of that month, I have attended 65 cases, and have prescribed for 50 more; I have rode day and night and have been deprived of much of my necessary rest—thanks to kind heaven, I have not lost a patient yet! *Not one!* Nine of these patients had been cut and mangled by the lancet, and almost calomelized to their narrow house. Three of the latter number are now under my care, and are evidently doing well for the time. The others are well and able to bear testimony to the truth by telling their own tale.

For one, I consider a living witness better than a dead one, whereas, (judging by their deeds,) many of the regular faculty prefer a dead one. By looking into their respective grave yards, where rest the fruit of their labors, many might find numerous witnesses of their just condemnation. This awful kind of testimony might well cause chilling horrors to seize on many a guilty breast. But hark! what thunderings, cursings, and ravings against the steam doctors. Are these the men to put down the Thomsonian System? Let them go on a while as they have done, and the work is accomplished.—Thomsonianism will certainly triumph by their own deeds: Witness their prescriptions—what are they? We answer from facts, Calomel, Tartar Emetic, Arsenic, Opium, Blisters, and the Lancet. These are their chief dependence, for all and every thing from the most simple head-ache to a confirmed consumption.

Are these the men to condemn the efficient remedies of Dr. Thomson, because they are few in number? Oh! shame, where is thy blush? We have the wide field of nature's garden open before us. The hills and dales, mountains and vales, invite our researches, that we may go forth and gather an antidote for every pain, and cull a remedy for every form of disease to which human beings are liable.

Through your Recorder, we learn that the steamers are doing wonders

in the Cholera. May God prosper their efforts every where. I had an opportunity last year to test the efficacy of the Thomsonian remedies in relation to this scourge of nations. We were successful in every case but one. Our failure in that case was from lack of good nursing.

Rest assured that *truth* and Thomsonianism are going hand in hand through North America! They are so identified that their voice is one and begins to be extensively heard and regarded. It is a voice propitious to bleeding humanity. Hark! we hear the cries of the widow whose husband was calomelized into eternity; the lamentations of the orphan whose father died by the lancet in the hands of a classical pretender to medical skill—the mourning of desolate parents whose only son was blasted to the grave, are all sounding in our ears. To these how grateful the tidings of Thomsonian discoveries.

Awake, oh South wind! and let the North wind blow an enlivening gale! Awake, ye slumbering millions from your medical dreams—shake off the lethargy of ages! Rouse, brethren! Thomsonians, rouse! Away with pretended reformation and improvements! We want something more and better than professional pretensions. Truth is our standard!

I will just mention that a travelling Reformer has recently been worming his way through our section of country. By the last accounts he made but poor speed in the disposal of his reformation works. If we follow our leader, we need not fear any harm! We must, we shall triumph! Our adventurer tried many experiments, but, sirs, he cannot succeed. He had better retire from the field, and travel where the Thomsonian System is unknown. He might venture in the deserts of Zabaara, or the city of Coriz, where they have neither books or education to read them. If you find any thing in my communication, you may deem worthy a place in your widely circulating Recorder, you may hear again.

A VOICE FROM N. YORK.

## A VOICE FROM N. HAMPSHIRE

Messrs. Editors:—The storms seventy winters have beaten against. Amidst high rolling billows and head winds, the old hulk is still able to brave the tumult of the pressing gale. I yet can guide my weather-bent bark with as much facility as most men of my age.

It being my lot while a boy to live in a wilderness country, as you may well expect, my advantages for a literary education were very limited: hence, in my advanced age, when the world begins to abound with literary information, I do not expect to figure largely in the public prints.

Having been the subject of much disease, and felt the power of medical poisons, I cannot withhold my testimony in favor of the Thomsonian Botanic System of medical practice: the testimony I must give while the lamp of life continues to burn, or I remain about the shores of time.

When a hot heaving breast, tormented with violent and almost insupportable pains, accompanied with hepatic affections, all indicated a nearly approaching dissolution, I have experienced the most salutary effects by the timely use of Thomsonian remedies. Yes, when my bowels had been drenched by physic, administered by learned indiscretion, and this earthly tenement reduced to a skeleton by starvation, when laboring under an attack of bilious cholera, from this dark medicated dockyard of filth and famine, I have been recovered by Thomsonian medicine, and placed on the terra-firma of good health. It was then I ascribed glory to the God of my life, for raising up, in this granite state, a man, before whose extraordinary skill, disease, in its terrifying forms, should so generally vanish away, and the sufferers be released from the torture of the once popular medical practice.

As the most vigorous part of my life was devoted to the service of my country, so I would, with equal pleasure, volunteer a portion of the evening of my days in this glorious cause, promulgating Thomsonian truth for the suppression of medical falsehood and delusion: But I am an old man! My

glass has almost run down. My head is blossoming with age—I must desist from making battle in the open field! Why should I face these medical foes? What I have seen, and known, and felt, has blocked my heart, and laid an embargo on the finer feelings of my soul at the mere sight of a regular physician! Thomsonians are able to take their own part. The cause is so far from languishment and decline in New Hampshire, that it travels on, is daily gaining ground, in defiance of prejudice, opposition, misrepresentation, falsehood, and persecution. That dark and gloomy veil, that for ages had fixed a magic spell on the eyes of mankind, begins to rend, and the lucid beams of Thomsonian light are now shining upon many of the sons and daughters of affliction, and consigning that monster, disease, into the vortex of mineral poisons, and regular skill to seek an asylum beneath the roof of druggists' shops, there to find ways and means for the destruction of human life, unamenable to any earthly tribunal.

Should that bright morning star that has risen in our favored land, continue to emit his vivifying rays, we may anticipate with confidence the day when every person of intelligence shall feel the cheery influence of its benign radiations, and heartily combine to tear down the altars sacred to the mineral poisons, nor longer bow with obsequious devotion to the shrine of regular medical superstition.

The name of the immortal Thomson sounds grateful in our ears. His discoveries are an astonishing message of benignity to man. His name and his discoveries shall blaze the pages of future historians, when all who now inhabit this terraqueous globe shall be silently sleeping in the cold bosom of their mother earth, and a new race have risen to have learned his fame from the pens of his friends and their predecessors, when they all shall have mingled in the lonely grave.

In defiance of learned opposition, Thomsonian truth and skill must and will prevail. I give my voice that every poisonous mineral drug be suffered to remain undisturbed in the earth, or be disposed of for any valuable purpose, only let no such article be esteemed or used as medicine to combat disease.

*Conviction and confirmation* are the uniform results of candid impartal investigation of the Thomsonian system. The more it is understood, the more readily disease flies, and death drops his arrows. By its influence, I have been rescued thus far from the power of the grave! When I look around me and see the sick and afflicted flocking to the Thomsonian flag, relieved of their distresses, restored to health, to their families and friends, how transporting the thought that there is a balm in North America so efficacious to heal our maladies, when seasonably and faithfully applied. Who but those whose lives have been saved by botanic remedies can duly appreciate the value of such powerful antidotes against disease? Egypt may boast of her Hermes, the first inventor of medicine; Cos may write in letters of gold the fame of her Hypocrates; Rome may pourtray to her empire, with all the eloquence of Demosthenes, the skill of her Celsus; Pergamos, in the finer touches of poetry, may celebrate the fame of her Galen, but the patriot fathers of New Hampshire will leave a legacy to their children to the world unequalled in the annals of earth and time. It shall be told to the latest generation of human kind that here was the birth place of Thomson, a most renowned master of the healing art, and one of the profoundest students that ever graduated in the school of nature.

OLD AGE.

TO MR. OLD AGE.

SIR: A communication from a man of your age and experience has found with us a hearty welcome to a place in the Recorder. We hope you will not neglect us in future. Your views and feelings appear to be congenial with our own. We are happy to discover that, notwithstanding you number your three-score years and ten, your mind blossoms with vernal beauty even into the deep winter of your advancing years. We know how to appreciate your testimony. While you stand thus conscientiously for the truth, we would remark that you have our best wishes

that your hoary head may be a crown of glory, being found in the way of righteousness.—EDITORS.

FROM THE ST. LOUIS TIMES OF 29TH ULT.

### STORM AT ST. LOUIS.

Our town was the scene, on Thursday night, of one of the most violent and destructive storms that has ever been known to prevail in this part of the State. During the early part of the evening the skies were lowering, and the atmosphere charged with electricity. From twilight until the cessation of the storm, there was a continuous glare of light; for a time the bolts discharged at a distance, but with quick repetition, but as the clouds gathered and condensed, they came nearer, and at last seemed as if they had made the air above us their battle-field.

The wind, which raged furiously, and to which might be properly given the name of hurricane, arose at six o'clock, and continued its violence for about ten minutes. It came from a north-western point, and happy for the surrounding country, had but a narrow range; from the observation we have been able to make, we would judge that the width of the greatest violence of the storm was not much more than a mile, and that it was direct, unless when the wind was turned by the opposition of eminences.

In the heavy injury caused by the storm, was principally inflicted upon the north-western part of it, and on the high ground. We believe that almost every house in that district sustained more or less injury.—Some were unroofed, and the walls rent away.—Others had both the gable ends blown off, without doing further injury, and others were completely razed with the earth. Trees were uprooted, and their broken branches carried to considerable distances; and the several unfortunate communities of boards that happened to be sociably assembled together, were separated, we fear never to meet again. In the lower part of the town, awnings, sign-boards, the tops of chimneys, and roofs, were scattered hither and thither, and it would have

been to the imminent danger of any one's life to have been in the streets at the time.

We have not heard from the country, in the immediate neighborhood of the town, where the wind was not so violent and powerful as it was here. The range of the devastation was, in width, about the same as in the city, and the direction of its approach from the same point.

**DEATH.**—The London Quarterly Review, just received, in noticing a book of Sir Henry Hallford on death and insanity, has the following striking passage:

“Whatever be the causes of dissolution, whether sudden violence or lingering malady, the immediate modes by which death is brought about, appear to be but two. In one the nervous system is primarily attacked, and there is a sinking, sometimes an instantaneous extinction of the powers of life; in the other dissolution is effected by the circulation of black venous blood in the arteries of the body, instead of the red arterial blood.

The former is termed death by syncope, or fainting, the latter, death by asphyxia. In the last mentioned manner of death, when it is the result of disease, the struggle is long protracted, and accompanied with all the visible marks of agony which the imagination associates with the closing scene of life—the pinched and pallid features, the cold clammy skin, the upturned eye, and the heaving laborious rattling respiration. Death does not strike all the organs of the body at the same time; some may be said to survive others; and the lungs are the last to give up the performance of their function and die. As death approaches, they become gradually more and more oppressed; the air-cells are loaded with an increased quantity of the fluid which naturally lubricates the surface; the atmosphere can now no longer come in contact with the minute blood-vessels spread over the air cells, without at first permeating this viscid fluid—hence the rattle. Nor is the contact sufficiently perfect to change the venous into arterial blood; an unprepared fluid consequently issues from the lungs into the

heart, and is thence transmitted into every other organ of the body. The brain receives it, and its energies appear to be lulled thereby into sleep—generally tranquil sleep—filled with dreams, which impel the dying lip to murmur out the names of friends, and the occupations and recollections of past life; the peasant “babbles o’ green fields,” and Napoleon expires amid visions of battle, uttering with his lost breath “tete d’armee.”

[*Presbyter.*]

**Poison from New Honey.**—A son of nine and daughter of six years, and only children of Samuel York, of Farmington, died a few days since in consequence of eating new honey. They lived about 26 hours.

It is, perhaps, not generally known, that honey recently gathered by bees at a certain season of the year, from the flowers of some poisonous plants, possesses their deleterious qualities in a highly concentrated state when fresh, and may prove fatal, if taken in sufficient quantity. It has been ascertained that the poisonous effects of some plants, as for instance the Lambkill, so called, depend upon a certain agent, named by chemists Prussic Acid. It is also found that this acid very soon loses its hurtful properties by decomposition; so that honey containing such an agent at first, would of itself become pure in a short time, being suffered to remain undisturbed. Occurrences of death from this cause are, no doubt, exceedingly rare. Though one such fatal instance, among hundreds who might at other times partake of this delicious substance without injury, ought to prove sufficient caution to deter from the use of it, at that season of the year, which might create a liability to injurious, if not fatal consequences.

[*Kennebec Jour.*]

### THE BLACK WORM.

Complaints are made in Upper Canada, of a large black worm, which is making fearful ravages with the grass and wheat of the new settlements. It appears to be as voracious as the locusts of Egypt. A single wheat field of fifty acres, had been entirely cut off by this new and destructive animal,

**Skin and Stomach.**—Let these two important organs be attended to in a proper manner, and all the diseases of summer, cholera inclusive, will be avoided. The kind attention to the skin consists in daily frictions with a coarse towel and flesh brush—the tepid or warm bath twice, or at least once a week; or, in lieu of this, daily sponging the surface with salt and water with the chill taken off it, and then rubbing with a dry coarse towel. The stomach will have justice done it by an avoidance of all kinds of alcoholic drinks; the moderate use of tea and coffee, if such be habitually taken; a due proportion of well boiled vegetables with meat roasted or boiled—and on occasions in sanguine temperament, in a feverish habit of body, a moderate share of cooked fruits—to the exclusion however of cherries and plums. In all cases where disease is present in a place, no kind of fruit nor any new or unaccustomed article of diet whatever should be taken in the evening.

[*Your Health.*]

**The Cholera.**—The following passage, extracted from the reply of Col. R. M. Johnson, of Scott County, Ky. to an invitation to visit Indianapolis and partake of a public dinner there, will shew the extent of the ravages of the Cholera, at his seat, up to the 1st July, the date of his letter:—“The Cholera has deprived me of ten of my family and six students of the Choctaw Academy who lived with me—and, although it has greatly abated, some are yet on the sick list, and the derangement in my domestic economy is so great that I fear it will require my constant attention at home to repair it during the current year.

**Health of the Mind.**—Anguish of mind has driven thousands to suicide; anguish of body none. This proves that the health of the mind is of greater consequence than the health of the body, although both are deserving of much more attention than either of them receive.



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**THE RECORDER.**


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**COLUMBUS,**


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**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1833.**


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**NOTICE.**

The Friendly Thomsonian Botanic Society of the United States are, hereby, again notified, that their Convention stands adjourned to the second Monday in October of the current year—that they have appointed to convene at Pittsburgh, Penn. All the Branch Societies in the United States, are requested to send delegates to represent them. All communications from those branches who cannot be represented, or such interesting documents as individuals may wish to lay before the Convention, should be forwarded to Jarvis Pike & Co., or to the subscriber, so as to reach Columbus by the first of October, that every possible arrangement may be made to facilitate the business that may be pending before that body. Details of the general progress of the Thomsonian cause, and of particular cases treated by Thomsonian remedies. The character and effects of opposition; the nature and results of professions of reformation on the system, important botanical discoveries, are all matters of deep interest to every friend of the cause.—Minute accounts of cases of hydrophobia, by the bite of dogs or of any other rabid animals, that may have been successfully treated by Thomsonian medicine, are specially requested. By a prompt and faithful attention to such matters of fact, the pages of the Recorder might be greatly enriched.—Gentlemen of taste, talents, experience and observation, who have come over to the Botanic standard, are requested to

be liberal in communicating the labors of their pens, to advance the more extensive diffusion of important information, and promote the general interest and reputation of this truly magnanimous and already highly respectable institution.

With respectful consideration, I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your obliged humble servant,

**THOMAS HERSEY,**  
Sec. Gen. Cor. U. S. Bot. Soc.

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Dr. Calomel was, for many years, a Family Physician to a particular friend, and with a good degree of professional finesse, had wormed himself into special favor. His wife, a valetudinarian of peculiarly delicate habit, became, at a certain time more seriously indisposed than usual. The family Doctor, who, by the way, was not far distant, was sent for in great haste. In about twelve hours, this distinguished knight of the pestle made his appearance in *propria persona*. Being seated *apropos*, he commenced in dignified philosophic silence, as his manner was, to twirl, twist, and twirl, very significantly to be sure, a favorite lock of hair, that lent its ornamental tangle to adorn his ponderous head. At length the anxious husband, tortured by an impatience natural to such an emergency, broke the agonizing silence, and inquired—"Doctor, are you going to prescribe for Mrs. —?" "Yes, sir," was thus extorted, and the Doctor, very learnedly observed—"You will give her a tea-spoonful of laudanum, and I will call again." Twenty-four hours passed off, while mother earth moved round the steady pole, and nothing further was seen or heard of Doctor Calomel, who was probably busy twirling his favorite lock at home. Persuasion pressing on persuasion, this man

of physic was at last induced to venture into the presence of his patient once more. Being again seated in a posture indicative of the homage he was intent to claim, and pondering deeply in his gigantic mind on the laws of matter and medical protection, it was evident he thought himself on the verge of the discovery of perpetual motion; for, with an evidently increased facility, he twirled the favorite lock again, until one was ready to conclude the obsequious hair felt an impulse from the magnanimous workings of that mighty mind that stirred within its silent corporeous condition.

Time seemed to move on slowly-lagging wheels. The long silence of the Doctor was, to the fond afflicted husband, as though "the pulse of life stood still, and nature made a pause—and awful pause! prophetic of *her* end" whose best interest lay so near his heart! "Doctor," said he, "are you not going to do something for my wife?" Dr. Calomel then began to collect his best thoughts, and to call in the roving of his mighty mind from its vast excursions, and made this scientific reply—"This is quite a complicated case. *Mrs. —* has so many disorders upon her, that I am waiting to see which will get the upper hand; give her this dose of calomel, and I will call again! This was the last visit he made to this woman!

Courteous reader, do not censure him for this last neglect—no! no! In this he was perfectly justifiable. Of this you will be convinced by the sequel of the story. *On that night Mrs. — died.* Her remains now rest in yonder grave yard, and the melancholy tale of her untimely exit is known to many surviving witnesses. The inquisitive will ask, was this Dr. Calomel one of the Esculapeans in whom so many of

the citizens of this metropolis so confidently trust? If the grave could speak, the fact would not require any farther affirmation. We merely affirm the disgusting story is substantially true. \*\*\*\* In "The Western Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences," edited by Daniel Drake, M. D.—Vol. vii. No. xxv. page 103, we have the following statements: "Calomel seems to have maintained itself in the confidence of the profession, and is given in almost every case. Some physicians administered it in drachm doses; but the greater number limit themselves to 20 or 30 grains, frequently repeated. All the patients, as far as we know, who are salivated, recover." To wait for salivation to effect a cure of Cholera, even as it has appeared among us, divested of half its terrors, would be to insure inevitable death to the patient. It is a disease that can never be managed by the tardy process of calomelization. A physician might, with equal prospects of success, sit down and twirl a lock of hair. We will say of those whose recovery has been imputed to calomel, as Dr. Drake has said of "those who survive the state of true collapse," they "do it, in all probability, from the inherent energy of the vital power, *and would have lived, we suppose, if nothing had been done.*"

A respectable correspondent in Philadelphia, under date of July 24th, observes—"Our friend, Dr. Hixon's treatment of Cholera in Kentucky, is read with much interest. I was gratified to find that his treatment of that disease was so similar to that which I adopted last summer, during the prevalence of that plague in our city; when, out of 37 confirmed cases that came under my care, I lost but one. Beside, there were between 5 and 600 persons

who shook off the premonitory symptoms by similar preventatives."

The writer concludes thus, humorously—"But I must haste to the Post Office—my thermometer now stands at 98.4 in the shade, 20 minutes past four o'clock P. M. Now you will allow me to take a little No. 6 and No. 2, in sugar and water, to cool myself, while I remain young, perspiring freely.

H. C.

A correspondent who resides at Carmel, Bradford County, Tennessee, under date of July 23, informs us of the desolating march of Cholera in that place. Out of a population of between 7 and 800 persons, 109 deaths were recorded in the paper of the preceding week. We are happy to learn from the same source, that its virulence had greatly abated. Notwithstanding this melancholy tale of human woe, he assures us that Thomsonianism, wherever applied with energy and care, has been successful, and is progressing rapidly in public estimation. We discover that, wherever the Cholera travels, death mows down the people, until the residue become alarmed, and hearing how marvelously Botanic Physicians succeed in relieving the invalid, they flock over to the Thomsonian rack, escaping for their lives; and, when his remedies become generally adopted, in any place, Cholera suddenly subsides. Oh! that the people would learn wisdom, and, with all their gettings, get an understanding of the truth in this matter.

There are two eventful periods in the life of a woman, one when she wonders who she shall have, the other when she wonders who will have her.

[*Boston Morning Post.*]

One of the most extraordinary occurrences of modern times, was witnessed on the line of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. A Mr. Wheldon, who left Boston, in Pennsylvania, on the 27th June, 1832, was attacked on the 15th August, at 3 o'clock P. M. and at 7 o'clock the next morning was to all appearances dead. In an hour after, he was placed in a coffin and taken to the place of burial. Here as the coffin lay beside the grave, a deep moaning was heard, and immediately on the suspicion of the fact, inducing the people to remove the coffin lid, Wheldon exhibited signs of life. He was removed, and is now in the borough of Easton, alive and well.—*Balt. Gaz.*

A similar occurrence took place a short time since, at St. Louis, Missouri, in the person of a female.—She had been taken in her coffin to the "Narrow House,"—but signs of life were fortunately discovered and she was taken out and recovered. It would be strange indeed, if the "indiscreet haste" in which Cholera subjects are hurried under ground, were not the cause of some premature interment.—At least these cases should operate as a caution.—*Ohio State Gaz.*

*Warning.*—The wife of Mr. Chester Beard, of Rockdale Township, is lying dangerously ill. Near a year since she was picking her ear with a pin, (a very common practice among females,) the head of which lodged in her ear, and all attempts to extricate it proved unavailing, and it is supposed that this will soon be the cause of her death.—*Crawford Messenger.*

According to the French Savans who have accompanied the expedition to Algiers, the tribes of Berbers who inhabit the mountains of the lesser Atlas, from Tunis to the Empire of Morocco, are the ancient Numidians described by Silius; and are, precisely the same, with regard to manners, customs and civilization, as at the period of the war of Jugurtha, more than a century before the Christian era.

[*Tucarcana Chronicle.*]

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co:—T. HERSEY, *Senior Editor.*

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FROM THE FREE PRESS.

## THE CHOLERA.

From examining effects of causes, we are inclined to believe that a sickly autumn will be experienced. But, as all diseases are servants of God, he can control them at will, and cause winds and tempests to counteract the effects that different weather may produce. The sudden changes of weather we have experienced, from extreme dry to extreme wet, from cold to hot, the great growth of vegetation, and many other effects, portend a sickly fall.—

"We should all prepare for the worst, and hope for the best." It is much better, if possible, to avoid a disease, than to be cured when it is seated upon us. It is our duty to use means in all things for our benefit, and, if by a little care and expense, we can preserve our own health, and that of our fellow-creatures, we have but done our duty to them and to our maker. It is easy to foresee what diseases we are to expect from different seasons, but God only knows to what degree of malignancy each disease may extend. But to provide against a slight attack of any disease, even in a slight degree, is better than to have that slight disease; and security against a disease, in the lowest degree, will be an advantage should the same disease seize us in its most malignant state. It is not yet the season of the year for our common fevers to prevail, but I hear that many are sickly through the country. We are not, or should not be frightened at this, for it may turn to great advantage. Many being sick will make others cautious how they live, and those now sick will have their systems so reduced that they will not be liable to the diseases that are common in autumnal months. There are many sudden deaths reported. This should not frighten us. We should reflect that our population, on account of the ca-

nal, has greatly increased within a year, and that many that have come amongst us are foreigners, who are unacquainted with our climate, which is very different from that in which they were born and brought up, and we know that a change in climate has a material effect on the human constitution. Many of these foreigners could not obtain the conveniences and comforts of life, have been exposed to cold and heat, wet and dry weather; this has led some of them into imprudences which have brought on sudden disease and death. It is surely wisdom in a General, if he expects to fight a hard battle, to have his men prepared for the contest—prepared in health of mind and body—and, if he does not fight, no harm is done; but, if he does, a glorious victory may be the consequence of his prudence.— So in regard to diseases of any kind. A little prudence, one portion of medicine in due season, may prevent a long sickness, and perhaps save life.

In autumn, when the leaves of the forest, of the field, and all kinds of vegetation begin to change their colour, and fall, then is the time for common diseases of the country to begin. It is an established fact, proved and demonstrated by botanists, that all vegetation respire or breathes during certain seasons of the year, as much as the animal creation. From the time in the spring when the buds put forth, to autumn, when the leaves lose their verdure and fall, one side of the leaves of all plants, shrubs, and trees, are constantly, day and night, inhaling or receiving particles of matter from the atmosphere, while, from the other side, is thrown off a pure fluid that arises through the pores from the earth.— Hence all kinds of vegetation, as well as insects, serve as purifiers of the air for the benefit of man. The organization of the different species of vegetation are formed differently by the immutable and bountiful God of nature.—

The particles of matter they receive from the atmosphere, and, which form their growth, are unfit or unhealthy for the respiration of man. Such as arise from decayed vegetation of former years, or the *miasma*, which, if received into our systems, produce disease and death. Some species of vegetation receive more noxious particles than others. The culinary plants, or such as we use for food, are formed of purer particles than those species which are unfit for the sustenance of man or beast. Such as are poisonous receive the most impure particles from the atmosphere. Some plants, when they first put forth in the spring, are wholesome for food, but when they grow, having received the more noxious matter, become a deadly poison. Hence we have a cause for there being more species of vegetation in low ground or on alluvial formation, where the air is impure, there are greater devastations above those regions to which *miasma* arises. In autumn, when vegetation loses its verdure, this wise operation in nature ceases. Hence two important sources by which the air is purified and rendered fit for respiration, is stopped, viz: The pure fluid that is thrown off, and the impure, which is imbibed by vegetation, both cease at once; and what remains in the atmosphere must be inhaled by all animation, let the consequence be what it may. If there is a pond of water by which a town or city must be supplied with water, and the water is impure; if means can be concerted that a passage be made by which impure water runs out, another by which pure water flows in, if these are equal, we may expect pure water in the pond or fountain. Reverse it in the atmosphere, as that is a fluid as well as water—pure fluid is flowing from vegetation into the atmosphere, and impure from the atmosphere into vegetation. Stop them both at once, and the water and atmosphere will both be impure. But the laws of nature are so wisely constructed that less inconveniences are experienced from this change than could be expected. All species of vegetation do not change their verdure and drop their leaves at the same time, but some retain their bloom in spite of frosts and tempests,

even till cold weather commences— all *miasmata* ceases to rise. Even the evergreens change not their verdure, though assailed by the coldest wintry storms. But, during the wintry months, even the evergreen ceases to respire. From the time severe frosts begin in the fall, till the genial rays of the sun cause fermentation in the earth, all the functions of vegetation cease, as do the powers of animals as live in a torpid state, through the tedious months of winter. Therefore it is the duty of every rational being to prepare the constitution for this change, which all can see must, in the order of creation, take place. But Omnipotence, by the change of winds and by storms, in our climate, has in a great degree removed the dangers which would otherwise exist. The autumnal storms which generally take place about soon after the change of the leaves, and by the time the injurious effects are produced, disperse the noxious vapours of our clime, and bring in purer fluids from distant realms. But, notwithstanding these provisions of Providence, yet caution and care should be taken, especially by wealthy persons, both in autumn and in spring, when vegetation commences its growth. A change of diet from strong to weaker will have a good effect. If not that, medicine should be taken.

But more depends, in autumnal months, on the situation of our dwellings and on the manner in which we live in them, than on the food which sustains and nourishes our bodies. We know that, in passing from a mountain into low valleys, we experience a great change in the atmosphere. The *miasmata*, or noxious vapours, arising from decaying and putrid vegetation, does not rise high in the atmosphere, unless it is driven by heavy storms or tempests. In our large cities, when the yellow fever has raged in a great degree, inhabitants of the base story in large buildings have been swept away as with the besom of destruction, while all who inhabited the upper apartments remained safe and well. It may be observed "that these epidemics are not allied to the Cholera; therefore speak of them?" The Cholera may be nearer allied to these fatal epidemics.



monics than many are aware of, and but a little change in the atmosphere, or in the water or food we use, may make a great change in the appearance of any disease. I conceive that all fevers from the chills and fevers, or intermittent fever, up to the most fatal epidemic, by which man may be apparently well and dead in an hour, even to the most destructive plagues which have desolated whole cities, not giving a moment's warning to the devoted victim. I believe that all are of the same species, but owing to the state of the atmosphere and the situation of the human constitution, the diseases rage to a greater or less degree. The cholera may be near allied to this fever in any of its degrees of malignancy; and by a little change in water, food, air, or constitution, it may assume the dreadful appearance it wears when wrecked by those spasms which must in a few hours separate soul and body. As a proof that it is a near kin to the yellow fever, plague, &c., the reader is referred to well known facts mentioned in a former number, to which I had reference to flies, insects of every species, &c., disappearing in places where these diseases rage to a great degree—the same is a fact in regard to towns and cities in which the cholera has prevailed—and these facts prove that the cause, or partial cause of the Cholera exists in the air we breathe. A predisposition to this dread disease may be formed in the system by the situation in which we live, by the food or water we use, or by the habits in which we indulge ourselves, and remain harmless and be worn off by the regular laws of nature, was not this undiscovered something in the atmosphere, which drives the pigeons from their houses, and helpless young, &c., communicated to our system. Then the deed is done, the case is passed forever. As a quantity of powder may be stored in a ship or a store, and is as harmless as any other article, but if a spark of fire is communicated to it, an explosion is certain, and the effects may be dreadful. H.

The Newport Advocate informs us "that they are about seeing the Sea-Serpent at Hampton Beach."

## SYRUP OF PEACH BLOSSOMS.

[*Syrupus e floribus malorum Persicarum.*]

Take Peach Blossoms 1 pound, warm water 3 lbs., soak for a day, press out, and repeat the infusion with fresh flowers four times more; strain, and to 3 pints of the liquor add two pounds and an half of common sugar, boil to a syrup. It is mildly purgative, used principally for infants—give one, two, or three tea-spoonsful at a time. Repeat occasionally at discretion, once in two or three hours. In small doses, night and morning, it is an useful alterative, increasing appetite by promoting digestion, and is recommended in larger doses, as a remedy for worms.

## HILL'S BALSM OF HONEY.

This has been much recommended for coughs and consumptive weaknesses.

The *Tuluifera Balsamum*, is a tree growing in Spanish America, and the Balsom flows from incisions made in its bark during the hot season. It has a warm balsomic taste and agreeable flavor. Some have highly exalted its medical virtues; others who perhaps have had less confidence in botanic medicine, would willingly expunge it from the materia medica. Hill's Balsom of Tolu is made by tincturing one pound of Balsom Tolu a week or ten days in one gallon of pure Alcohol, and afterwards adding one pint of pure, limpid, strained honey. It is used as a pectoral in colds, coughs, &c. in doses of a tea-spoonful, repeated several times in a day. One ounce of this balsom added to a quart of the cough drops, and well agitated together, having the cough drops made a little warm to facilitate the mixture, would greatly improve the taste, and no doubt add something to the virtues of the medicine.

## BALSAMIC COUGH ELIXIR.

Take of Hill's Balsam of Honey four ounces. Saturate tincture of the seeds of *Lobelia Inflata* two ounces, and two ounces of a saturated tincture of equal parts of Umbil and Skunk Cabbage, made in proof spirits—to the whole, add one ounce of No. 6.

This medicine relieves spasmodic coughs and cramps, pains, and hysterical affections. It should be administered in tea-spoonful doses, several times in a day, gradually increasing the dose as the stomach can bear the nausea it may sometimes occasion. If at any time the stomach should reject the medicine, you have only to reduce the dose and proceed.

#### SIMPLE SYRUP.

Simple Syrup is nothing more or less than a solution of sugar in water, about two pounds of sugar to one pound of water, dissolved in a gentle heat, and boiled a little, and skimmed, forms, if the sugar be pure, a very pleasant treacle, more convenient than sugar undissolved, for mixing medicine in extemporaneous prescriptions—less liable, when added to syrup, to undergo fermentation than sugar-house molasses. Occasionally, scalding substances of this kind, during the warm season, will prevent the injuries they sustain by being neglected.

#### SYRUP OF MULBERRY.

Take of the strained juice of Mulberries one pint, refined sugar two pounds. Dissolve the sugar in the juice over a moderate heat, and proceed as directed for making simple syrup.

Syrup of Raspberry-juice, Currant juice, Gooseberry-juice, or of the juice of the common Elder berries, may be prepared in the same way. These form pleasant cooling syrups to quench thirst and allay heat of the mouth and throat, in bilious or inflammatory affections. They form an excellent vehicle for the administration of medicine. Powders mixed with these syrups form an agreeable electuary.

#### CLARIFIED EXTRACT OF BUTTERNUT OR WHITE WALNUT.

[Juglans Cinerea.]

Take the inner bark of the White Walnut Tree, shred into small pieces any quantity. One gallon of pure soft water to every pound of the bark—boil down to half the quantity—strain the liquor while hot. When cool, add the white of two eggs to every gallon of the extract, beat up with a tea cupful of water—stir this into the extract, place

it over a moderate fire, and bring it to a scald—as soon as it begins to boil, carefully remove all the scum, and you may afterwards reduce it to any consistence you please, by placing the vessel containing the extract into a tub of boiling water, and continuing the process at discretion. When reduced to the consistence of a syrup, an equal quantity of molasses being added and a pint of good No. 6, to every two quarts of the whole, makes it an agreeable purgative medicine.

#### RATTLE WEED.

[Acræa Racemosa.]

This is a native of our own country. Called also Richweed, Squaw Root, Black Cohosh, Snake Root. [Botrophis Serpentaria.] It grows most generally in open lands, and among dead timber, in uncultivated fields, and on hill-sides; especially when beech and sugar-tree constituted the original growth of timber. It has one large, hard, flatish, knotty, dark earthy brown or black colored root, frequently as large in circumference as a common tea saucer. From the edge of this main root hang numerous large threads or fibrous roots of the size of a large goose quill, from six to ten inches in length, much interwoven one with another, and of the same dirty black color as the main root. The stalk rises from the centre of the principal root, to the height of from three to five or six feet, of a greenish blue color. Its long narrow lancet-shaped leaves are of a deep green and but few in number. It branches towards the top, and one of the branch stalks is always nearly one-third larger than the other, terminating in a spike of clear white, small, thick-set blossoms. These commence at or near the fork. The seed vessels are about the size, color and general appearance of black pepper. The seed is small and hard, resembling brown mustard. When ripe, by shaking the plant, the seed will rattle, hence the name rattle-weed. If undisturbed, the seed vessel will hang on the stalk through the winter. At the approach of spring the seed-vessels burst and the old stalk falls down, but the root remains alive in the ground. The entire root, when dug up and the dirt shaken off, pre-

ents an appearance that readily reminds one of the epaulet or shoulder-not of a military officer. It is found in almost all parts of the United States, and abounds in the Western country.— It has been in many places known among the Farmers as a popular remedy for *yellow water* in horses.

It is mildly astringent and tonic.— It operates in the urine and relieves female obstructions. It has been frequently recommended in country practice. Of its utility in facilitating childbirth, we are not prepared to give testimony, but think it worthy of trial.— In coughs and consumptive habits, it has acquired some reputation. In ague and fever and bowel complaints, we have more confidence, both from experience and the respectable testimony of those who have more extensively tested its efficacy. It is administered in substance, finely pulverized, or in tincture, infusion, or syrup. It may be given by itself, or compounded with other remedies. The infusion is made by pouring a pint of boiling water on a table-spoonful or more of the coarsely powdered root; sweeten with loaf sugar, and dose a table-spoonful at a time to young children. To adults it may be given more liberally. A saturated tincture, in proof spirits, should be given, in doses of fifteen or twenty drops at the commencement, increasing the dose about five drops each succeeding day. The powders should be commenced in doses of six or eight grains, and the quantity may be gradually increased from day to day.

A few drops of the essence of Henlock may be added to each dose in rheumatic, catarrhal, and consumptive affections.

The essence of Penneroyal may be employed in the same way for female obstructions. As an alterative, the doses may be repeated once in six or eight hours. In agues and other cases of emergency, it may be given once in two or three hours.

It is a medicine of considerable power, but we have never known any alarming impressions made on the system. We consider it an inoffensive and efficacious medicine, entitled to the prudent and discreet attention of the friends of Botanic remedies. The tea or infusion makes an useful gargle in sore

throat. When given liberally, it appears to reduce the force of arterial action, and quiet nervous agitations.— The tea is an excellent vehicle for nerve powders, and Thomson's composition powders, in all nervous affections.

### UNICORN ROOT.

This is sometimes called Starwort, Starroot, Blasing Star. Botanical name *Aletris Ferinosa*. Dr. Thomson has bestowed great encomiums on this valuable root, which lives in the ground through the winter, hence called perennial; shoots up in a small hairy stalk in the spring, which grows from 6 or 8 to 20 or more inches in height, as the soil in which it stands more or less favors its growth. Its pale smooth spear-shaped leaves, spread out on the ground, remain an evergreen. Round the stalk, presents the resemblance of a star, from which circumstance probably some of its names have been derived. A soft white hairy down grows round the stalk. It bears a whitish blossom. The root is a dusky brown earthy color, rough, wrinkled, and hard. The main root has many fibrous roots shooting out from it. It is of the size of the end of a middling sized little finger, and being crooked at the end, has probably given it the name of the *Unicorn Root*.

Professor Bigelow, in his *Medical Botany*, says—"I know of no plant which surpasses the *Aletris Farinosa*, in genuine, intense, and permanent bitterness. Neither Aloes, Gentian, nor Quasia, exceed it in the impression produced on the tongue. It is a tonic and stomachic medicine. An excellent carminative or medicine expelling wind. The root, dried and finely pulverized, may be given from half a tea-spoonful to a tea-spoonful or more, in a cup of umbil tea, or skunk cabbage tea, and repeated once in two hours, is equal to the copavi or cholic root, in relieving hysteric, cholic, and pains in the breast, with palpitations and hurried respiration. It soothes rheumatic pains, and has been said to relieve stranguary. Taken two or three times a day, after passing a regular course of medicine, it is, with some of our Botanic friends, in high repute for females to prevent miscarriages.— From the experience we have had, in

repeated trials of its efficacy, we are inclined to believe that, when used with discretion, the system being prepared by proper evacuations, that its virtues have not been overrated. Compounded with other articles, it has been well esteemed in coughs, catarrhs, and other pulmonary affections. It is, by itself, mildly expectorant, but, from the soreness frequently occasioned by its continued use, we prefer a judicious combination of this root with other pectorals. It is thought, by the most experienced, that it relieves cholic pains more speedily and certainly to add to each dose of the powdered root a few tea spoonful of gin or some other ardent spirit, before adding the valerian or umbil tea.

#### WILD POTATOE.

[*Convolvulus Panduratus.*]

Called Bind Weed, Man in the Ground, Man Root, Wild Richard, Wild Potato Vine, Kussander Root, or Kassader, or Cassada. This is an indigenous plant, and grows over a vast extent of these United States. A purplish colored vine rises from its large, hard, white root, creeps along the ground, or climbs a shrub like a grape-vine. The stalks are weak and trailing. To its large bell-shaped, whitish purple blossoms, succeed the seed vessels, containing angular blackish seeds. It is found in various situations, that is, in soil of almost every quality, but more commonly where there is a loose sandy, loomy surface, in old deserted fields, by water courses, and all low, loose, sandy, open, uncultivated ground. A strong infusion, freely used, is a diuretic that not only promotes the discharge of urine, but often removes gravelly concretions, particularly after a course of medicine, and the patient put warm in bed, after a second application of steam. In coughs, asthma, and consumptive affections, it is accounted a valuable pectoral. Those fond of purgatives, take large doses in fine powder, and find it produces the desired effect. It is chiefly in a compounded state that we have tested its value, and have no hesitancy in saying that, as an expectorant and cordial, in pulmonary weaknesses, it is often useful.

#### YARROW.—[*Millefolium.*]

This is a very common plant in old deserted fields, in meadow-grounds, pastures, and sides of fences. It rises in common about 12 inches in height. It begins to show its white blossoms as early as August, and continues until October. They present a flat surface on the top and have a white purplish tinge beneath. It is too common and too universally known to require a more minute description.

A handful of the tops made into a tea, with a quart of boiling water, taken in doses of a tea-cupful at a time, sweetened with honey or fine sugar, three or four times in a day, has been found useful in dysentery and piles—it enters into ointments for piles. The juice has been successfully applied to cancerous sores as a wash, and the bruised herb laid over the affected part, corrects the discharges and disposes to heal. Its internal use should be preceded by a course of medicine.

**Fire-proof Cement.**—The French cement for the roofs of houses, to preserve the wood and protect it from fire, is made in the following manner:

Take as much lime as is usual in making a pot full of whitewash, and let it be mixed in a pail full of water; in this put two and a half pounds of brown sugar, and three pounds of fine salt; mix them well together, and the cementing is completed. A little lampblack, yellow ochre, coloring commodity, may be introduced to change the color of the cement, to please the fancy of those who use it. It has been used with great success, and been recommended particularly as a protection against fire. Small sparks of fire, that frequently lodge on the roofs of houses, are prevented by this cement from burning the shingles. So cheap and valuable a precaution against the destructive element ought not to pass untried. Those who wish to be better satisfied of its utility can easily make the experiment, by using on a small temporary building—or it may be tried by shingles put together for the purpose, and then exposed to the fire.

[*Rail Road Journal.*]

**THE RECORDER.****COLUMBUS,****SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1833.***Interesting Communications.*

The following important communications were published in "The Democrat," a paper printed at Huntsville, Tenn. on the 4th July last. Since that period, it has been plodding its weary way from the far South towards Columbus. On the 27th instant, this liberal paper reached the hand of the Senior Editor of the Recorder! The mutilated condition of the Democrat reminded us of the pitiful situation of an ancient traveller from Jerusalem to Jerico, and revived in our recollection the history of the whole adventure. We have endeavored to act the part of the good Samaritan, and to put the good tidings into a travelling posture in the pages of our own Recorder.

Many are the obstacles which have been thrown in our way to impede the circulation of Thomsonian Intelligence. The suppression of truth, the propagation of falsehood, and every sinister means are held in requisition to support the learned delusion of the faculty.

A letter-writer in Columbus, whose hallucinations darken a column in the INDIANA FARMER, (a paper printed at Brookville,) develops something of the workings of a disordered mind.—Such mental aberrations from truth and justice, plainly evince that the moral influence of the desolating Pestilence has not been universal, or that a general reformation had not been effected.

The voice of weeping humanity ap-

pears to be silent, while the anonymous letter-writer indulges his exultations at the occasional failures of the Thomsonian Remedies to relieve the collapsed and dying Cholera patient. There are certain scribblers who have commenced a letter-writing business, to raise a war-whoop behind the bush. They are prepared to scalp and roast Thomsonians. Having consigned them to martyrdom, they are beginning to dance round the stake that envy and malice have devised. We shall be able to give some good account of the nefarious efforts of malignant opposition; but we shall take our own way and time. The foundations of the Thomsonian System stands firm. We shall not detain our Readers any longer from the subjoined testimony. He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear, and receive the truth understandingly into a good and honest heart.—EDITORS.

**FROM THE DEMOCRAT, OF JULY 4.**

MR. EDITOR: It is with feelings of painful regret that we are compelled, from the animosity shown by some of the Medical Faculty and their friends, towards the Botanic system, and even those who are disposed to administer the Botanic medicine, to make known publicly, that falsehoods unheard of and premeditated, and rumors unknown and without a beginning, have been circulated throughout the country, without an author and without a man to hold himself responsible. Now, sir, the intention of this publication is to establish truth and defeat many false reports. To do this, we here produce a letter from Mr. Dewody, of Pulaski, and certain certificates from citizens of the place, whose veracity and reputation cannot be doubted, to prove the success of a practice so much ridiculed and vilified by persons who are ignorant of its principles and inattentive to its effects, save only when a death ensues—yet pretending to be allwise in the healing art—knowing when to criminate—when to justify. Our only appeal is to



let facts show for themselves; and if these certificates are not sufficient, we can but give them ten or twenty more.

PULASKI, JUNE 13, 1833.

MESSRS. BROWNING & CRAIG: I now embrace the first leisure moment I have, to drop you a few lines by Mr. Waller. I have been going night and day—success has attended our every effort—out of about fifty patients to whom we have administered, not one has yet been lost, and most of them are hearty and well. We have some in favorable circumstances that have been operated on by the Calomel Doctors. A negro of Mr. Underwood's was nearly lost by the use of Calomel, but we have strong hopes of his recovery. I have only attended two patients that have died; to them I was called in, in the last stage of the epidemic, and they died in less than 2 hours after I got to see them, after the other doctors had given them out. I believe I shall succeed in selling a number of patents in this county, as we have broken down the prejudices of the people, and the feeble opposition made by the Doctors and their friends, must ultimately give way.

Excuse haste, and I will write to you shortly. JOHN A. DEWOODY.

PULASKI, JUNE 23, 1833.

Messrs. Waller & Bass:

GENTLEMEN:—I have delayed answering your letter for the want of leisure to write, and time to obtain the certificates you requested. For I consider the lives of my fellow-beings of more importance than my reputation. If they were neglected now, the loss would be irretrievable. But I considered the calumnies and lies, that are put in circulation to the injury of my character, by the interested and designing, only as a transient vapor that would be easily dispelled by the light of Truth.—Under this consideration, I fearlessly throw myself upon the candor of an enlightened public, and call upon them to investigate this matter.

Let matters of fact dispel the mists of prejudice that have so long swayed the mind.

I will briefly state the circumstances that induced me to engage in the practice at this time. It is well known to all my friends and acquaintances, that,

when I left home I had no knowledge of the Cholera at Pulaski; but started on a quite different employment, and never heard of its being here until I was within five miles of the place. On my arrival, I found the Epidemic raging. I visited as many as four or five cases in the course of the day, which terminated in the death of the victims. The Doctors failed in every effort, and were unable to check in the least, its violence, until the people lost all confidence, and the physicians themselves were discouraged.

In conversation with Dr. Topp, he candidly owned they had done nothing, and that the disease was out of his control. On my recommending the Thomsonian practice, he said he knew nothing about it; but if any person could do any good, he thought it their duty to do so, or language to that amount. Mr. Shaw and myself had previous to our leaving home, put up a small portion of the Botanic medicines, for our own private use. One of Brother Anderson's negroes came in complaining of feeling unwell; on examination, we discovered they were the premonitory symptoms of the disease—his having lost all confidence in the physicians, he requested me to try the efficacy of Dr. Thomson's remedy. We did so; and it had the most happy effect, and relieved the patient in the space of 3 hours. We continued to give the medicine to several others, with the same success, until we had given the greater part of what we had with us, and consequently refused to part with any more, lest we should have an attack ourselves, and not have the means of relief. Through the pressing solicitation of a long and tried friend, and the circumstances by which I was surrounded, and a sense of duty and Christian philanthropy, I consented to remain and use our united exertions to alleviate the pressure of human woe, even at the risk of life, for which I have been abused, and the most false and slanderous reports put in circulation—even by some I esteemed as friends. But let that rest—I left Mr. Shaw and started immediately to Huntsville for medicine; but, on my way, was advised to go to Browning and Craig's, five miles northwest of Huntsville, who furnished me with a supply

of medicine—at which time, on the 7th day of this month, I bought of him the patent. I returned to Pulaski on the next day, and found that the violence of the disease had not abated. We commenced practice, and, with the blessing of Providence, the disease gave way to the remedies used; life was restored, and the countenance belimed with sorrow, was again permitted to smile through falling tears.—(This I am able to prove if denied.) As it regards the letter I wrote to Browning & Craig, the truth of which some have denied, I again repeat it is literally and emphatically true; and I have living testimony to prove it if necessary. And, as relates to the rumors, calumnies, and falsehoods that have been so actively circulated by the opposers of the Botanic System, that we have killed nearly all the patients we have attended, I assure you it is positively false. I have understood that some one wrote to Huntsville that they intended to drive us out of Pulaski.—Some few individuals—boys I presume—have made some such threats; but we are under no apprehensions, and continue to pass and re-pass, in the performance of our duty unmolested; and it is a truly gratifying feeling to meet the smiles of affection and gratitude, that beam from the eyes of friends and relations of those with whom we have labored—this itself is a recompense for all we suffer in the cause of humanity. On this subject I have acted from motives beyond the reach of malice. With the opinions of the world in conscientious matters, I have nothing to do—It is not the tribunal before which I am to be tried. Popular favor and popular opinion, I have not courted. While I am able to keep a conscience void of offence toward God and man, I shall continue to move forward in a straight undeviating course, regardless of the storm that breaks around me.

I will just remark, that we have been called on and have attended at least one hundred patients. We do not pretend to say all these were Cholera; but I will say, that the most of them, in all probability, if let alone, would have terminated in Cholera. Out of this number, our enemies cannot say, without a

great perversion of the truth, that we have had more than six deaths in our whole practice. For a statement of the cure of three of these, I refer you to Mr. Anderson's certificate. The case of the two others were dying when I got to them; for the case of one of them, see Mr. Riddle's certificate.—The other, Eliza Joplin, I will refer them to Thomas Porter, whose certificate I have not yet been able to get.—The sixth one is the case of Richard Morris, (on which they have harped a good deal,) who refused to take the remedies prescribed—this case I refer you to the certificate of T. A. Westmoreland & Morris. Some of the Doctors and their friends have charged us with the death of patients we have never seen, and who have died under their own practice. Some they have pronounced out of danger, who have since died. But I defy them to bring a single case we have pronounced safe, that is not now well, or on the recovery.

Enclosed you will find a number of certificates from respectable citizens of this place, whose veracity, I presume none will dispute—and, if these are not sufficient to convince and establish the facts already asserted, we are able to produce a number more.

Yours, respectfully,

JOHN A. DEWOODY.

PULASKI, JUNE 23, 1838.

DEAR SIR: It is with pleasure I address you on the happy results of steam medicine in my family. After my boy Scipio was given out, by two regular practitioners of medicine, and also every person that saw him. I adopted your course of practice, and followed your directions in taking my boy through a course of medicine, and he is now well to the astonishment of all that saw him during his illness. I have had, since I saw you, three cases similar, and I have made cures of them all with your medicine. I have seen the happy results in other families, which have convinced me that Thomson's System is the best I ever witnessed. Necessity drove me to try your practice, and, happy for me, I did so, for I think it has been the means of saving my family.

Your friend, A. G. UNDERWOOD.

MR. JOHN D. WALLER.

PULASKI, JUNE 23, 1833.

Being called on by Mr John A. Dewoody, to state what I know about his practice on the Thomsonian plan. Several of my family had what is called the premonitory symptoms of the Cholera; they were all relieved by him and Mr. Shaw, and are doing well at present. The number that had what I thought to be strongly marked symptoms of Cholera, were four; four or five others took a course of medicine whose symptoms were not so strongly marked. I can further state, that I went with Mr. Dewoody to Mr. Giddon's, to see three negroes with Cholera, on the 16th, when I saw them, they were cold and had no pulse that I could discover; that was about 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning. Mr. Dewoody complained of being very unwell before we went, and, while there, got worse; he said he must go home and take medicine, which I advised him to do. I saw him some two hours after he left Mr. Giddon's; I thought him very bad with Cholera; but he was relieved by a course of his medicine.—In a short time (about 12 o'clock) I heard the negroes at Giddon's were dead on the same day.

SAMUEL Y. ANDERSON.

We believe that there have been five cases of the Cholera in our family, including Richard Morris and wife, and R. P. Riddle. We further believe that Mr. Dewoody relieved them all (except R. Morris) with his Botanic medicine, and we believe that if Richard Morris had submitted himself to his (Dewoody's) treatment, he would have been well likewise.

THOS. A. WESTMORELAND.  
LESTER MORRIS.

Being requested by Mr. John Dewoody, I do certify that five cases of Cholera took place in my family—two of the cases were attended by the regular physicians, which died; three were attended by Messrs. Dewoody & Shaw, under the Thomsonian practice; they were relieved and got well. Mr. Dewoody also had the Cholera at my house, and was relieved by the Thomsonian practice.

JOHN F. HOLDEN.

Being requested by Mr. Dewoody, do certify that a negro boy belonging to me had the Cholera, or the usual symptoms of the disease, and was relieved by Mr. Dewoody with the Thomsonian remedies.

THOMAS WILKINSON.

PULASKI, JUNE 21, 1833.

I was taken with Cholera, from the way it is represented. Dr. Shaw was sent for, and, in the course of three hours, I felt as well as before I was taken. Also, my daughter, three years old, was cured by the same.

WM. LYNCH.

At the request of Mr. Dewoody, I do certify that myself and a negro woman in my care, were attacked with Cholera—or had all the usual symptoms of Cholera, and were attended by Mr. Dewoody, under the Thomsonian practice, and relieved, and are now doing well; and I further certify that a negro girl, attended on by Mr. Dewoody and Shaw, belonging to Mr. Wilkinson, who died when they were called to attend her, such was the advanced stage of the disease, that I believed her case out of reach of medicine.

MADISON RIDDLE.

These are the facts we wish to lay before the public—facts, sufficient of themselves to satisfy any unbiased mind as to the efficacy of this wrong censured medicine. Men prone to retard common interest for self-aggrandisement, and ever ready to criminate where no just cause exists, may now rest in obscure silence. They may now make their reports of steamers being blown up—they may say the steamers can rumor abroad their cures of the Scarlet Fever without seeing one case of it—they may spread the news of their running from Pulaski with Captain Slick close behind them—yea, they may say a certain one has been Slicked from Humsville; but such sayings are heeded as the tall pine waves her branches in defiance of the startling breeze.

W. & B.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE INDIANA AMERICAN

Columbus, August 27, 1833.

SIR: We have no disposition to impugn your motives, in the recent publication of a letter purporting to have been written at Columbus, August 19th, which appears in your paper of the 28th instant. Publishers of periodical papers are liable to many impositions, and there never will be wanting designing unprincipled individuals to practice wily tricks on their credulity.

Your news-maker has deceived you by arrant falsehoods, and you have suffered yourself to be led into several errors by an anonymous letter-writer, and to circulate his fabrications.

The publication gives the community to understand that four deaths had occurred in the family of Mr. Smith, Editor of the *Ohio Monitor*, all cases of Cholera—whereas, no death from any cause had occurred in Mr. Smith's family except that of Mrs. Smith. Her death was occasioned by an attack of Cholera, under circumstances of that peculiar nature and delicacy, that would have rendered a formidable attack of disease, in any form, undoubtedly fatal.

A Journeyman Printer, and a daughter of Mr. Smith, were both severely affected with Cholera at his house, and have both been recovered under Botanical treatment.

The first case of Cholera that occurred in Columbus was that of Mr. Stagg, on Sunday the 14th of July, and not on the first, as stated by your busy correspondent. This miserable blunder is not entitled to notice only as it gives us a specimen of the correctness of the writer's statements, and how justly any thing he might say is entitled to public confidence.

So far the writer has been preparing his way to hoist the hostile flag, and make a sweeping statement. Your recreant scribe proceeds to state—"There has been a great strife among the Physicians, and has resulted in the *failure of the steam system*."

If by "*failure*," the writer means that Thomsonians have not imparted immortality to the mortal bodies of men, we readily concede the fact. If

he merely means that there have been some cases of Cholera, so formidable in the attack, or so far advanced before they had opportunity to apply the appropriate remedies, that they have proved fatal, thus we feel no disposition to deny. But if the writer means to be understood that Botanic remedies have not succeeded for the cure of as many in proportion to the number of cases in which they have been applied, as those means employed by the Regular Faculty, the statement is utterly false and calculated to mislead and deceive the public.

It is true that Horton Howard's family have suffered severely—six out of nine have died! The two first were small children. Mr. Howard and his daughter had been sick; through great fatigue, night-watching, grief and exhaustion, relapsed, two of the family being then extremely sick. Mrs. Howard fell a victim to Cholera, after excessive grief and several weeks of insupportable fatigue. She had buried two grand children, an amiable daughter, and her husband, and was in painful anxiety, watching night and day over the sick bed of another daughter and her son-in-law, who had both laid sick for nearly four weeks. These were truly distressing and highly unfavorable circumstances. Mr. Little, the son-in-law, died next, but his complaint was not Cholera in its termination.

The next, and most glaringly notorious falsehood asserted by the letter-writer, is the following statement—"They," says he, [the Botanical Practitioners,] "commenced using their syrup, and it is found that all who used it much, have had the Cholera, and when they take it, it is almost impossible to cure them." It is an undeniable fact that a very large proportion of the entire population have taken freely of the Cholera syrup. Now, admitting it to be true that all who have taken the Cholera, had previously taken the syrup, another stranger and equally interesting fact, presents itself for the consideration of honest minds. It is a fact, that we have had fewer cases in Columbus than in almost any other town that can be named in the Western Country, of equal population, and that a still less proportion of those attacked with Cholera have died!

It is also a fact that nearly or quite three-fourths of the whole population of this metropolis have taken more or less of the syrup. It is equally correct to affirm that we are fully confident that not one-half of those who have died ever used it as a preventative, or even ever tasted it.

This is the decided and candid opinion of those who have had the best possible opportunities for ascertaining the facts. A minute knowledge of the facts can be ascertained, and in due season will be presented to the public.

The next falsehood of the anonymous writer is, that Martin L. Lewis, a Thomsonian, applied to a Regular Doctor, who saved his life. This statement is quite a flourish, but the facts in relation to the case are these: Mr. Lewis had labored under a diarrhœa, and, being busily engaged, suffered the complaint to run on until the Cholera had commenced in a most formidable form. It was rapid in its strides, threatening a fatal termination in despite of the vigorous efforts of his friends, who, worn down with fatigue in the exercise of a humane natural sympathy, connected Dr. Mills, a Botanical Physician, who has not confined himself exclusively to Dr. Thomson's prescriptions. Dr. Mills applied, *externally*, some ointment of his own preparation, and exhibited, *internally*, a Thomsonian Emetic, which speedily and effectually operated, and happily relieved the patient. This was an isolated case of uncommon violence, and probably the most extraordinary and unexpected recovery that has occurred among us:—an instance that clearly evinces the power of Lobelia in the most desperate forms of disease. Dr. Mills is undoubtedly entitled to a good degree of respectful commendation for his prompt, efficient, and persevering course. To his industry, courage, and judicious efforts, it is believed that Mr. Lewis is indebted for his escape from the destroying plague. We cordially congratulate him in this instance of distinguishing success. But what avails all this to the Regular Faculty? Dr. Mills is not a prescriber or administerer of calomel. His treatment of Mr. Lewis's case was as foreign from that usually pursued by the Regular Faculty, as noonday and midnight darkness.

It is true, the Regular Faculty, we have reason to believe, have been comparatively more successful in Columbus than the Calomel Doctors have commonly been in most other places that have been visited by the epidemic pestilence. We believe, at the same time, that the number of cases cured under the regular treatment, will present a list of more than one for three who have died. This will be nearly the proportion. We judge from the best estimate we have yet been able to make. This will be as a candid and impartial opinion arrived from the best data now before the subject, however, to an honorable correction of the slightest deviation from plain matter of fact.

We would just remark, that the whole subject is a matter of special importance to the public. Measures are in a state of progress to publish a full, fair, and impartial statement of the whole truth, let it cut wheresoever it may. It is certainly to be regretted that any one, in their great zeal to uphold some particular mode of treatment, should be so infatuated and led astray by prejudices, as to sneeringly refuse to confer the credit actually due to others who think differently and prescribe differently from themselves.

The truth of the whole matter appears to be, that the Botanic practitioners and their friends are more than ever confirmed in their belief of the superiority of that mode of treatment, while some, who feel inclined to doubt its efficacy, because it has not effected a cure in every case, are sanatically arrayed against the system, and denounce it and its adherents, because they will not relinquish it as unworthy of their confidence. One failure, under the Botanic treatment, excites more feeling than ten under the Calomel treatment. It would by no means be an impracticable task to give a list of names and cases rescued by Botanic treatment, and to make something of a satisfactory statement of the comparative merits of the Mineral and Botanic practice, and clearly demonstrate the superiority of the latter over the former; but we shall desist for the present. A future opportunity will be more appropriate when the Cholera shall have totally disappeared, and the public



mind more calmly disposed universally to decide by the weight of testimony.

AN OBSERVER.

The Editor of the AMERICAN will not feel himself assailed by this exposition of what appeared in his columns, as the news of the day, and we will not doubt his readiness publicly to refute such erroneous statements, that he may eradicate fallacious impressions and establish truth in the public mind.

Yours, respectfully,

EDITORS.

MURFREESBOROUGH, JULY 13.

Extract of a letter to a citizen of this place, dated Nashville July 6, 1833.

DEAR SIR: I embrace the first opportunity to answer yours of the 2d instant, requesting me to give you a statement of my mode of treating the Cholera. I shall proceed to do so, in a brief manner. I shall not theorise nor conjecture on the cause of the disease, but merely state the practice I have followed in treating that malady:

For my views of the physiology and pathology of the Cholera, I refer you to the 9th number of the "Thomsonian Recorder," in an article signed D. F. N. While I shall confine myself here, to give you the practice as founded on that theory; which I contend is strictly Thomsonian.

In the first stages, the disease is very tractable and easy to manage; yet persons should not rest on a too great sense of security, which might soon prove fatal; nor should they be alarmed at the appearance of the disease; but they should be cautious at any time, and make use of the best means to stop the disease in its onset, and thereby save pain, danger, time and money!

I have cured many cases of the Cholera, by making free use of the Cholera Syrup, made after the receipt published in the first number of the "Recorder," with the exception that, instead of molasses, I make use of Syrup of Sugar. If there is any nausea, after using the Cholera Syrup, it will generally be removed by making use of a so-

lution of a tea-spoonful of table salt and the same quantity of best Cayenne, in half a gill of Vinegar. For a dose, take a small table-spoonful until the stomach is settled. The use of cold water, will prove hurtful in any stage of the Cholera; it must be dispensed with, and the authority of the Medical Faculty laid aside! Cold water will nauseate the stomach. If there is much griping, add some composition powders and Cayenne to the Cholera Syrup—when the bowels are very loose, injections of a strong decoction of any of the articles described under the head of No. 3, in Thomson's "New Guide," 2 parts, and one part of No. 6, should be thrown up frequently until relief should be obtained.

I shall no longer dwell on the "premonitories," for they are so easily treated that the most ignorant Thomsonian will hardly ever fail relieving them. I will now speak of the more dangerous stage; that which borders on the collapse.

Let me here premise a few words on the *modus operandi* of the Cholera. On a former occasion, I have said that the peculiar miasma of the Cholera had an affinity for the internal viscera, as the virus of the small pox had for the surface of the body: it absorbs the nervous fluid from the extremities (and it is this fluid which keeps the heart and arteries from contracting, or, in other words, which causes the *diastole* after the *systole* of these organs) and, for the want of it, the arteries first contract; the capillary vessels are emptied and throw their contents in the larger veins, which quietly retreat towards the centre, where there is the more space to receive it. As the arterial circulation is lowered, the absorbents is very active for a while, which is shown by the patient getting lean very apparently in a few hours! Thus the whole mass of fluids of the body are thrown toward the stomach, where the poison takes its seat; which is also proved by the patient always complaining of great burning at the stomach and unquenchable thirst. The blood and lymph are necessarily forced toward the centre of the circulation. The tonic contraction of heart and arteries will not permit the blood to again take a new start, and

here it stagnates and causes these pains in the region of the stomach. The lacteals are now taking a retrograde action, and quickly empty their contents in the bowels, and afford an issue to the accumulating blood and lymph, which causes these watery discharges and pains at the stomach and bowels. The muscles are now left to perform their essential contraction as the nervous fluid (or as Thomson has it, "*inward heat*") is drawn from them, which creates those excruciating cramps, which are the dread of the sufferer. Cramps and spasms are the essential features of this frightful disease, for vomiting or purging are not always accompanying it.

Viewing the disease in this light, which indeed is the only correct one, a systematic mode of treating it will now be found without hesitation.

As the stomach is the organ most affected, and the most essential one to be relieved, means must be used to do that as speedy as possible: its effects on the nervous and vascular systems are astonishing. I will now proceed to give you my mode of treating this stage of disease. Here the most energetic treatment is required, and not a minute's time must be lost! I am now speaking of the most violent cases.

Have the patient to lay in bed and administer immediately a dose composed of two table-spoonful of Rheumatic drops, (No. 6.) one tea-spoonful of Lobelia, (the seeds are best,) and one of the best Cayenne, and one of Nervine; repeat this every ten or fifteen minutes until relief is obtained. At the same time have some warming teas for the patient to drink. The third preparation of Lobelia is preferable to the first indication, as it contains all the articles recommended in it, and being in solution, the stomach acts on it quicker: this must be repeated until re-action takes place; that is, until the arterial circulation is raised, which will be shown by the patient being warm all over and no longer complain of the pain at the stomach and bowels, the cramps ceasing, and when the stomach is sufficiently cleansed, the last vomit will be tinged with bile. In the mean time injections, composed as recommended above, should be frequent-

ly administered, but if the pain should continue and the injections be frequent, the cramps strong—the third preparation of Lobelia should be added instead of the No. 6. Let the patient retain the injection as long as he can.

You will now perceive that I have said nothing about steaming. I do not condemn the practice; but in violent cases there is no time to be lost, and while hot bricks, and other means necessary to steam, should be procured, the lost time might prove fatal.—When the disease is overcome, it can be kept off by medicine without steaming, and this cannot be done until the stomach is thoroughly cleansed, which renders steaming, in a measure, unnecessary. Besides, I have found, in my practice, that external applications were not very essential; and are difficult to be applied. When cramps are bad, it will be found beneficial to rub the parts with No. 6, or better with the 3d preparation of Lobelia—this would become difficult to do under the operation of the steam. If hot external applications be necessary, hot bricks wrapped in wet cloths are the best.

When you have arrested the disease, the practitioner must not go to sleep and "dream of health five fathoms deep," but watch constant. If the patient falls asleep he should be suffered to rest, but the moment he wakes, a dose of Nos. 2, 6, and Nervine should be administered, and frequently repeated, so as to keep him in a relaxed state and in fine perspiration. When the disease is completely overcome: the patient will complain of great weakness, which is a good symptom, because the nervous influence is now healthy, and the muscles having lost a great portion of the *contracting sense*, are now too much relaxed to obey the full motion of the will—after the patient has rested, if he calls for some refreshment, it should be given him: but, as the stomach has been very much weakened by the disease, the food should be light—now the common spiced bitters, (No. 4,) made hotter with Cayenne, will be administered; which will restore the patient in a few days to his former strength and health.

I wish not to be understood here, that the practitioner should not vary in

the above rules under all circumstances, but that he should always act according to the dictate of his better judgment. There is nothing so easy as to make rules, administer remedies, and perform cures *on paper*, but it becomes quite another thing to practise on "the sick bed." And remember that you cannot give too much medicines when they are harmless—and those I recommend, I will warrant to be such, under all circumstances!

But as examples are better than precepts, I will give a brief history of a few very violent cases which necessarily required different treatment, which will show how difficult it is to make general rules to apply to every case.

On the 29th day of May I was called to see a negro woman who was very violently attacked. On the day previous she had taken a dose of salts, which had moved her bowels very severely the whole day and night; on the morning of the 29th she was suddenly taken with vomiting and cramps all over the body and general spasms.—When I saw her, her hands and feet were cold, face cold, radical pulse gone, terrible cramps extending from all the extremities to the trunk and abdomen, her features and all the symptoms, showed the worse type of the Cholera. I immediately gave her half a pint of cholera syrup in one dose; and in five minutes, I administered half a tea-cupful of the third preparation of Lobelia and repeated it every ten minutes until she vomited freely from the effects of the medicine. She soon got easier; the cramps left her about 11 A. M., when I gave her 2 large table-spoonful of No. 6, and a tea-spoonful of Cayenne and one of Nervine every 15 minutes. This was faithfully attended to; about 3 P. M. the cramps showed symptoms of returning, when I again gave her the third preparation, in smaller doses. She vomited and soon got easy. I continued giving the No. 6 and Cayenne, with Nervine, every 15 minutes, until 11 P. M., when she got perfectly easy and called for food.—Some light refreshments were procured—she eat and soon went to sleep after this; I gave her the Spice Bitters and Cayenne, a tea-spoonful every four the next day, and the 2d day four or five times. In a few days she got per-

fectly well, and has enjoyed her health since as well as she did at any time before.

2d. June 10th, about 9 A. M., I was called to see Mr. ——. He had been taken with a diarrhoea on the day previous, but it was checked towards night—he rested well all night—but was taken with greater violence. On the morning of the 10th the discharges soon became of a dirty whitish colour, like rice water, vomiting and terrible cramps—no medicines would stay on his stomach—yet, unless immediate relief was afforded, he would certainly have died! for the fate of those who have such violent attacks are decided in a few hours! I immediately made an infusion of Bayberry and Nervine; took two parts of this and one of No. 6, and injected it—he felt easier in a few minutes. I administered another of the same in about 15 minutes, which did not seem to afford any relief. I did not wait, for the times were momentous! I prepared another, and, instead of the No. 6, I put a larger quantity of the 3d preparation of Lobelia. I repeated it every 10 or 15 minutes until he got relieved—he vomited freely from the effect of the Lobelia that was injected; then the cramps left him entirely; with very little care he got perfectly well, and, in a few days, again attended his business as usual.

3. On the night of the 19th to 20th of June, I was called to see a young man, ——. On the 19th about noon, had taken a dose of Calomel, and drank cold water afterwards; it did not operate. About 11 P. M. he cramped terribly and complained of great pains at the stomach—the fit of cramping soon got so violent that he became insensible—his jaws set and perfectly stiff, no sign of life was left but the pulse which beat feebly—no medicine could be administered in the usual way. I immediately injected him with an infusion of Bayberry and the third preparation; by the fourth injection, he seemed to move a little—he soon came too, and wanted to go to stool, and was relieved directly, but did not remember what was done to him. I continued the injections—about 1 o'clock went to sleep and rested well; he took the Cholera Syrup the next day, and, in

three days was again able to work.

It would be useless to multiply the cases here; enough has been said to give any one an idea how to proceed when he is acquainted with the medicines.

D. F. NARDIN.

*Disease among Cattle.*—The following is from one of our most respectable farmers in the county of Philadelphia. [Penn. Inquirer.

*To the Editor of the Inquirer.*

SIR: A disease—name unknown to the writer—is prevalent among the horned cattle and horses in the neighborhood of Frankford, in this county, and my object in publicly stating this fact, is to elicit, if possible, through the medium of your journal, some information touching the disease, its cure, or what is most desirable, an “ounce of prevention.” Within the last fortnight or three weeks, upwards of nine cows and six or seven horses have died in the immediate vicinity of the village, and all so far as I can learn, were carried off in the same way. The writer of this communication has lost, of a stock of four cows and three horses, two of the former and one of the latter, all having died within ten days. My cows and horses were apparently in health *three hours previous to death!* and in every instance they were found *dead*, without exhibiting any symptoms of disease. I am told, however, that a horse of one of my neighbors exhibited uneasiness and a kind of vertigo a few hours previous to death, but that no symptoms of disease were visible in the morning—the animal having died in the evening. I had a post mortem examination of one of my cows, but could discover nothing in the stomach, bowels or paunch, to produce death—these parts of the animal exhibited a healthy appearance. The abdomens of the cows and horses were all much swollen *after death.* B.

August 1.

P. S. Cow well, apparently, at 2 P. M. dead at half past 5.

Cow well, apparently, at 10 in the evening; found dead and cold at 5 next morning.

Horse well at 2 o'clock, dead at half past 4.

FROM THE WESTERN JOURNAL.

On the 13th of June, an intelligent and respectable friend, wrote from Lexington, Ky. as follows:

“Our physicians are nearly all *down*—our stores are all shut—all business at a stand—hotels and taverns closed—and in short, nothing but apothecaries’ shops open. Within the last ten days, it is calculated, that not less than 300 victims have fallen. The cases are *numberless*. Nor are they confined to the intemperate, and dissolute, and poverty-stricken. The disease here has taken a more elevated range—many of the most respectable, and wealthy, and temperate have fallen.

“It is true, it has been most severe on the blacks, especially the *free blacks*. But several families of white citizens have been annihilated, or nearly so.—Most of the inhabitants who had the means, have fled—some to be brought back the next day on a bier; some to be buried in the country; and some, probably to escape the disease. For myself, having a large family, and no way to get off, I have remained; and, blessed be God! ~~we~~ are still safe.—When I thought of flying, I knew not where to go—the country is full of Cholera. It is raging all around us.—So I consoled myself with repeating the words of the Poet—“*Who fights meets death, and death finds him out.*” In short, the distress is beyond description! No city police—at least *visible*)—no board of health—no medical reports—and the streets have, for the most part, the stillness which pervades the ruins of Palmyra. Such, my dear sir, is the city of Lexington.

“I leave you to imagine the picture of our distress. But I must still add, that the markets are suspended and the bakers’ shops shut up, with one exception. Not a pound of beef to be got—and very little else. Not a crack-er for sale in the city.”

*A Father’s greatest pleasure.*—The celebrated Patrick Henry, in a letter to his daughter, written a short time before his death, made the following remark:—

“Among all the handsome things I have heard said of you, what gives me the most pleasure is, to be told of your *piety and steady virtue*.”

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HERSEY, *Senior Editor.*

VOL. I ] COLUMBUS, SEPT. 7, 1833. [No. 28.

FROM THE NEW YORK MIRROR.

## HYGIENE.

We have drawn copiously from a little volume, just republished here, entitled, "The Sources of Health and Disease in Communities, or elementary views of Hygiene, illustrating its importance to legislators, heads of families, &c." The treatise is elegantly written by Henry Belinays, Esq. surgeon extraordinary to her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, and contains information of a most interesting nature, most of which will be novel to a large number of our readers. The subject of health is not in general sufficiently considered. We solicit attention to the annexed extracts, which have been carefully marked as complete in themselves, and calculated both to please and instruct. To heads of families they are peculiarly important.

### COMPARATIVE LONGEVITY OF THE RICH AND POOR.

"The reports of longevity are, of course, given on the average; but, on a closer view, we find a frightful disparity between the span of life allotted to the rich and the poor. It has long been known, that a hard working agriculturist, with his ruddy health and strength of limb, does not live so long as the delicate and intellectual patrician, who envies his apparent advantages—that mechanics are commonly worn to death, in a few years, in the manufacturing of luxuries—whilst a trembling sensualist, who has lost all useful energy of mind and body, if he be rich enough to command all the resources of our civilization, will spin out his automatic existence to an advanced age."

### LUNAR INFLUENCE.

"Even though we may consider with some distrust the power of lunar influ-

ence asserted by some, still we have a multitude of facts, that induce us to believe in that power, either alone, or in combination with the sun, on human life. Chancellor Bacon was subject to syncope during the eclipses of the moon; Matthew Faber, in his works, speaks of a gentleman who always spent the days preceding an eclipse, buried in thought and melancholy, and who, when it took place, rushed headlong into the streets, striking with his sword every thing he met. A young girl is reported by Hoffman, as laboring under an extraordinary painful swelling, beginning and finishing with the increase and decrease of the moon, et cetera.

"In all parts of the globe, men have thought they recognized lunar influences on the crises and exacerbations of disease. The phenomena of the invasion and duration of fevers appears to be controlled by that influence. This is seen more distinctly as we approach tropical climates, where generally the operations of nature partake of a development very favorable to scientific investigation. Dr. Jackson states, that in Jamaica the febrile intermittent and lunar period correspond. Dr. Lind observed the same phenomenon, and adds, that deaths occur mostly during the ebb of the tide; and that eclipses produce dangerous relapses to those ill of fever. Dr. Balfour, in the Asiatic Researches, says, that when the sun, during the equinoxes, by approaching the equator, increases, by his power, the attraction of the moon; with the increase of the tides occur also the increase of violent fevers and mortality."

### EFFECTS OF THE SUN ON HUMAN BEINGS.

"The Sun, being the centre of our planetary system, has also independent and more extensive influences. Without recurring to the more minute or



apocryphal, we will advert at once to those exerting powerful effects on the human frame; although the reader curious in such matters, may find in scientific publications many very remarkable examples of the former—persons losing daily all powers of vision at sunset—and, amongst others, that mentioned by M. de Humboldt, of a noble lady, the Countess de K——r, who lost her voice when the sun disappeared, and only recovered it at his rising in the morning.

“By the variation of the relative position of the sun in the ecliptic, are produced the seasons; and by the seasons is the human frame greatly influenced. Statistical reports prove that the incipient life of the human being, as well as its death, are subject to their power.”

#### LIGHT.

“A few words only can be devoted to the subject of light; and they are offered because people generally think so little of those phenomena around them, to whose influence they are habitually exposed. In the same manner that persons who are continually singing and talking, are the least aware of the importance of those exercises to the human economy—improving the health of those who have been condemned to silence and solitude, or killing those who suffer from diseases that require rest—so, those who enjoy the purest rays of light, are those often the most blind to its powerful effects.

“It is not merely that the eye, anxiously accommodating its powers to its privations, and enabling the prisoner to distinguish objects in what appears to us the densest darkness of his cell, will be struck blind by the splendor of a day when he comes forth—as many others are by the too vivid brightness of lightning—but the light of the sun appears, as it were, to feed the human body. Removed from it, the body grows pale, exhausted and bloated; scrofula and many other complaints depending upon a want of tone, are generated. In this respect we are not unlike plants, which we see, when forgotten in a cellar, grow blanched and sickly; shooting out rapidly their feeble and flexible stems,

nor resuming any thing of their distinctive color, until some leaf can expand itself eagerly towards the light of a crevice.

“Among human beings, it is not unhappily, those only who are condemned for their crimes to seclusion, who prove to us the injurious effects of the absence of light. The unfortunate beings doomed to work for us in the bowels of the earth, are living illustrations of this fact; but those who inhabit large cities have still nearer evidences: in the dark and narrow streets and lanes—in the windowless house—in dark kitchens and cellars—many, particularly of the infantine and young, confess the absence of that influence, that imparts the beautiful hue to the human cheek, as to the varied creations of nature, and which, combined with heat, sets a distinctive mark on the natives of different parts of the globe. Considerations of this kind might lead legislators to pause before they exclude, by taxation, any portion of a blessing, which indeed is one of the vital principles of animated existence.

“That which might compensate the absence of this stimulant is that which those so deprived are least likely to obtain—abundant and nutritious food.”

#### ELECTRICITY.

“The effects of electricity on the human frame are very apparent; but it is not only when it strikes some victim to the ground, that its power is acting upon us—we are constantly exposed to its effects, in every shade of degree.—At the approach of the thunder storm, and still more during those electrical states of the clouds, which so often occur without any violent explosion, men and animals are affected with peculiar sensations—uneasiness, heaviness, torpor, headache; and, at such periods, persons of certain nervous temperaments cannot move out without danger to their health. Such is the effect of electricity upon the animal economy, that when the nerves, which supply digestive energy to the stomach, are cut and separated from the source of nervous power, the arrested digestion of the animal can be continu-

ed by application of the Galvanic current. Even after death, electricity exerts a wondrous power—criminals, recently executed, are thrown into the most fearful contortions, by the use of the Galvanic battery; bed-ridden patients, long laboring under most distressing and positive forms of disease, are reported to have been cured by the descent, and consequent shock of the electric fluid, falling within the room they inhabited. In this manner, in 1762, a bed-ridden Kentish shepherd, palsied by an apoplectic seizure, suffering constantly from palpitations, convulsive and vertiginous sensations, was suddenly cured by an electric shock he experienced in his bed."

#### CHURCH BELLS.

"It is not many years since people were continually killed by the habit of ringing the bells of churches to dispel the thunder. In 1718, twenty-four churches in a small compass of country in Lower Brittany, were struck in this way by lightning, in one night. It has been estimated, that, in thirty-three years, three hundred and eighty-six churches were struck by lightning in France, and one hundred and three bell-ringers killed. In England, and in our own times, the same thing may occur; for we have recent examples of churches being struck, in an electrical state of the atmosphere, and persons killed, while ringing the bells for divine service."

#### IMPRUDENCE DURING THUNDER STORMS.

"Individuals, too, are still occasionally victims of their ignorance, of the peculiar laws which regulate the accumulation or discharge of electricity—taking refuge from thunder-storms under trees—creating currents in the air, by running, &c."

#### PHYSICAL EXERCISE OF THE SENSES.

"Sound is to the ear what light is to the eye: they both contribute beneficially to stimulate the human system, besides their important agency in the functions of relation. Sound, reaching the drum of the ear, excites the

auditory nerves, which, carrying their impression to the brain, rouses it to a more active exercise of its function—that of conveying nervous energy to all parts of the body. Even in a healthy state of the frame, perhaps, if the brain were not kept alive by sound, light, touch, taste, and smell, it would lapse into impotency. Few, perhaps, consider the effects of these stimulants, light, sound, &c. on the body—that, without locomotion, they exercise it—that, like other stimulants, they exhaust it—that, when we have passed some hours with our bodies in repose, our ears taking in a constant succession and variety of sounds, we are fatigued and require rest as much as if we had walked many miles. Hence it is, that in sickness, light and sound aggravate, or even occasionally produce fever."

#### SOUND.

"We cannot expect, in this early portion of our work, to expatiate on the science of sound, and its effect through the mind, on the nervous system—the enchanting and powerful influence which often, in youth, develops premature passions, and imparts to persons of delicate temperament a morbid acuteness of feeling, at the same time that it refines grosser characters—the influence, approaching to intoxication, which induces the Swiss mountaineer to desert his colors, and which, on the other hand, imparts such excitement to whole armies, that the field of carnage becomes the field of sport. Since we find domestic animals, reptiles and spiders so acutely alive to the power of music—and have, in the Philosophical Transactions, a record of notes which greatly agitate even wild beasts—we may be prepared to understand some of its effects on man. Savage nations have been thrown into a state of frenzy, on first hearing European music. The chronicles of the time relate, that the Duc de Joyeuse, while his nuptial festivities were celebrating in the presence of Henry the Third, was thrown into such agitation by hearing the performance of a celebrated minstrel, that he drew his sword, and was restrained with difficulty from committing vio-

lence ; his delirium yielded, at length, to a gentle strain of music.

" Music is well known to impart energy and convey relief in muscular exertion. Troops who march in silence are more easily fatigued than when their step is regulated by the drum and fife. In some gymnastic schools of the continent, the young athletes are made to perform their exercises to the sound of music, to diminish their fatigue.—The rope-dancer mainly depends on it—the Canadian boatmen, and the gondolier seek instinctively to increase their energy, as well as to lighten their labors, by their native melodies.

" We shall only add, at present, that music has been employed with success in the cure of some diseases—as might be proved, if our limits would permit us to quote the examples given by M. Bourdois, and others."

#### THE ACTION OF SOUND ON OUR PHYSICAL NATURE.

" In addition to its effects on the mind and on the nerves, sound being produced by the vibrations imparted to the air, it is difficult, at all times, to distinguish and separate the modes of its action on man. The gunner has his ears frequently bleeding from the report of the cannon he fires—great concussions produce deafness, and sometimes death. The fish die, and float on the surface of moats and rivers, near which sieges or battles take place.—From an ignorance of these properties of sound, great disasters have occurred ; Generals have incautiously blown up the ammunition in a retreat, and numbers of the soldiers and inhabitants of the country have fallen victims to the sonorous percussion. In the writings of eminent military surgeons, will be found records of the spasms and agony felt by soldiers, in their wounds, or the stumps of amputated limbs, together with lists of the diseases that are aggravated by the report of artillery, and which render men unfit for the artillery service, although possessed both of inclination and courage to perform its duties. Facts are, moreover, recorded, that convey a still greater idea of sonorous percussion : the explosion of many pieces of cannon is said to clear

a threatening sky from clouds and electricity, and to have dispelled diseases in the atmosphere—as is lately reported to have occurred at Warsaw and formerly at Gibraltar."

#### PREDISPOSITION TO DISEASE.

" The human frame is so delicate, that, in our artificial state of existence, there are few individuals totally exempt from some predisposition to a particular disease, which accompanies him through life. These diseases, though too often hereditary, may still be combated. A long list of the most fearful might easily be given, but we will name only a few : madness, phthisic, epilepsy, cancer, scrofula, &c.—They are all well authenticated, and worthy the study of those who feel the interest natural to parents in the happy establishment of their children, as also to the political advisers of those personages whose offspring are destined to fill the highest places among men.

" The most illustrious families are not free from some such taint. Historians have remarked, that all the kings of the house of Valois were slightly tinctured by madness. As we approach modern times, instances are innumerable—but we purposely close the book of record.

" All physical peculiarities, in a word, in the parents, are hereditary : and we may trace in the unconscious infant, even the lines of that care which is ushering the decreped parent to the grave, but to which its happy age is yet a stranger. Well might Horace say,

" Fortes creantur fortibus et bonis."

#### MARRIAGES BETWEEN THE HOMEY AND THE HANDSOME.

" Thoughtless persons are apt to attribute to what they vaguely call chance or the caprice of fortune, what is really the most admirable manifestation of a paternal Providence. The success and riches often obtained by men of inferior abilities and means, furnish an example of the justice of an all-wise Creator ; in the same light may we behold the unions which occur between the gifted and the inferior, among the

human species, the ugly and the handsome. Some unexplained sympathy, some irresistible attraction, unites them; and, by these means is the human race improved. Were there not some powerful counterpoise, the arbitrary fancies of human caprice would soon erect a barrier, and the ugly and unattractive be as effectually excluded, as though nature had set upon them a sign of reprobation."

#### THE ATMOSPHERE.

"The atmosphere of spots inhabited by living beings, is, if we may be allowed the expression, but a confused assemblage of all that has passed from the solid to the fluid or to the soluble state, through the agency of heat—of effluvia exhaled incessantly from the bodies which the air surrounds, penetrates, dissolves—odoriferous matter, consisting of numberless molecules, emanated from perfumed bodies—water vaporized, or in a state of suspension; elastic fluids, constantly produced by new combinations; smoke arising from the burning of so many different combustible bodies; of dust, thrown into the bosom of the atmosphere, by so many arts of necessity, and by friction; all of which, carried away to some distant spots, are destined to become the nuclei of new bodies."

#### DUST—MACADAMIZED ROADS.

"Before speaking of the odours and effluvia, of which the atmosphere is the ever-ready vehicle, we must not forget to observe the effect of those subtle molecules or particles elicited and thrown constantly into the air by friction of artificial processes of manufactories, &c. Dust, or minutely-divided substances, produce the most sensible and pernicious consequences, when inhaled constantly or in large quantities. The eyes, the mucous membrane of the air-passages, and the skin, suffer severely from dust, whether it be merely from the mechanical irritation, or from the peculiar pungency of the pulverized substance. Hence the workmen belonging to the numerous trades, in the operations of which a degree of dust is unavoidable, are so often affect-

ed with coughs, consumption, asthma, hæmoptysis, &c. In the large towns a great improvement has been introduced in the streets—that which is called Macadamization; but if care be not taken to remove, during wet weather, the loose mud before dry heat and the friction of carriages turn it to powder—if, during dry weather, the surface be not regularly watered, and that sufficiently to keep down the dust, during the whole of the day—if these precautions, we repeat, be not taken, the fearful annual average of deaths from diseases of the lungs, in the bills of mortality, will inevitably be increased by the irritation which the powdered granite borne in the atmosphere must necessarily engender in the respiratory organs.

"Although not strictly within the limits of our present subject, we shall take this opportunity of observing the danger incurred by delicate persons going out in the evening of a hot day, when large Macadamized streets are watered. The cold and dampness of the atmosphere, produced by the evaporation, may prove very prejudicial.

The evidence afforded by needle-makers and stone-grinders, would lead us to believe that dust reaches to the extremest ramifications of the bronchiæ. We may also mention here, "en passant," that it is not advisable for the consumptive to travel along dusty roads, and particularly in dry hot winds. This they are often made to do in search of health, amid foreign climes. At such moments they should rather reside amidst green fields at home, or only travel, if possible, by sea—a mode of conveyance notoriously and peculiarly salutary—or in weather when the roads are free from dust."

#### ODORS.

"In the time of Boerhaave, marvelous attributes were assigned to the odoriferous principle; but human opinion, ever vibrating, like a pendulum between two extremities, now either underrates or totally overlooks the influence of odors. The numerous experiments made on them by philosophers are forgotten, or remain unap-

plied ; and the organ of smell is considered only as it contributes to the comeliness of the countenance, or the communication of pleasant or unpleasant sensations. Nature, however, has not been less elaborate in this than in other portions of the human body :—the internal parts of the organ of smell, greatly convoluted and sinuous, are thus contrived to expose a larger surface to the action of odors, the membranes upon which they act being near the brain, and communicating with it by peculiar and important nerves, &c. On the other hand, we possess abundant evidence of the ready and extensive diffusion of odors : the scent of some spicy and flowery lands is perceived at the distance of thirty or forty miles from the coast—

‘ And many a league,  
Cheer’d with the grateful smell, old  
Ocean smiles.’

“ So minutely divided are odoriferous substances, that in some, as in those that arise from assefetida, each particle has been calculated to be a volume only the 181,000,000,000,000,000,000th part of a cubic inch. Still, as nature has given to our nervous system the power of appreciating so rare an emanation, and as some odors impart as much disgust as others afford pleasure, perfume cannot be merely an unimportant accessory property of the bodies, bestowed on matter, as elegance of form is, to flatter the sense ; nor is it only to serve as a guide—for some of the most agreeable odors perniciously intoxicate the senses ; and some fetid smells, as from a sewer, &c. though unwholesome, are less so than the baleful, though scarcely perceptible, scent arising from marshy grounds. Not alone does the vegetable world, but mettle and stones also, emit odor : but that which is most familiar to us, is the scent evolved from all animals—that by which the predatory beast discovers his prey, the blood-hound tracks his victim, and the sagacious dog of St. Bernard’s discovers the traveller buried beneath the snow. The exhalations of men of the several quarters of the globe, are also different in smell. The traveller has unpleasant reminiscences of those peculiar to the Negro,

the Indian, and the Esquimaux. In youth, the odor exhaled by the human body is positively agreeable, but it is too often succeeded, at a latter period, by one unpleasant and noxious, and demanding the continual remedies derived from our refined habits. This again is found to increase suddenly into fetidity by the agitation of the darker passions, as anger and fear ; and still more infallibly, from the first decline of health to the last stage of disease. The fetid odors thus arising from man, are justly supposed not to play an unimportant part in the ‘ mephitic,’ whose dangers we shall shortly consider.”

#### ABUSE OF PERFUMES.

“ The luxurious and unmeasured use of odors has not ceased with the Pagan era, or in the Paphian temples ; neither is it confined to the Zenanas of the eastern Odalisk ; it is as much in vogue among ourselves, and in this country ; and we, therefore, shall give a few out of the numberless examples of its pernicious and sometimes fatal consequences. Our observations have already proved that perfumes are worse than needless auxiliaries to youth and beauty, and that they may add to the effervescence of early passion in those who are but little aware of the nature of the exotic charm—a charm the false prophet has not forgotten to place in his sensual paradise, and poets in the bow-er Circe and Armida.

“ If smoking stramonium relieves asthma and reclining on a pillow of hops, produces sleep ; on the other hand, also, the occasionally pernicious effects of odoriferous bodies cannot be doubted. In a slight degree it is seen in the fainting and head-ache produced by strongly perfumed flowers, in close rooms.”

#### EFFECT OF SCENTS ON CATTLE.

“ We may conceive the effect that pungent odors must have on the susceptible nerves of the refined and sensitive, when we see the fury they produce in brute animals ; it has happened sometimes in cattle fairs, that mischievous persons have scattered into



the air pungent powders, by which the animals collected for sale were made so furious, that they had broken down all barriers, and escaped, after overthrowing, in their mad career, men and women, tents and booths."

#### HAY FEVER.

"The reader has no doubt heard of the existence of a fever called Hay Fever, attacking delicate persons during that harvest."

#### FLOWERS.

"To 'die of a rose, in aromatic pain,' is an idea that loses some of its facetiousness, when we really find some young women (for example, the daughters of Nicholas I. Count of Salin, and of a Polish Bishop, &c.) dying immediately after respiring the perfume of some heaps of those flowers, or of violets."

"The rooms in which flowers are most diligently amassed by our ladies of fashion, are generally the smallest; it is the elegant penetralia of the boudoir that they shut them up. The heat there, is favorable to the rapid elicitation of odor from the dying plant—the atmosphere is scarcely disturbed by a current, and seldom renewed—whilst, in their natural situation, the cooler air moderates the evaporation, and its undulation wafts towards us a diluted fragrance."

#### EMANATIONS FROM THE EARTH.

"Whether produced by the working of volcanos, whose subterranean communications extend under a great part of the globe, or from other causes, the earth itself, in many places, spontaneously throws out vapours and gases, the carbonic and sulphurous being the principal, and the most destructive to human life.

The 'Solphatara,' 'Grotto del Cana,' have furnished a hackney'd story to each successive traveller in Italy; but a more fearful exemplification appears to have been lately found in an Island in the Indian Seas. Travellers have there come to a boundary of hills overshadowing a valley, within whose lim-

its it appears impossible to live. The bones of man and animals bleaching, as far as eye can reach, in the sun, give fearful testimony of the character of this real Golgotha. All who have ventured there, soon unable to advance or retreat, have expiated their rashness or ignorance by immediate death."

#### ARTIFICIAL HEAT IN ROOMS.

"If, in a large town, we look at a ray of the sun falling from a closed window on the floor, we shall distinguish that it falls, as it were, through a gauze of dust—proving a fact, which, by the bye, we should have stated elsewhere, viz. the unfitness of large towns as residences for the consumptive, notwithstanding their more uniform heat. In rooms warmed by stoves, this dust is burnt when it passes over the surface of the heated pipes, and produces an atmosphere very insalubrious. This effect may be obviated by covering the exposed part of the stoves with porcelain and other substances.

"The carbonic acid gas, producing asphyxiation, is frequently the cause of serious mischief on the continent, where the sempstresses and other persons keep their feet warm by means of boxes containing cinders. It is also occasionally a mode of destruction adopted by suicides. Death also often surprises the unwary, when chimneys, doors, and windows are shut, in places where a fire is kept."

**A CURIOUS FACT.**—A letter from Wheeling, Va. says—"Another circumstance which I consider a curious one, never having seen it mentioned as taking place any where else, is, that the martins, and even the domestic pigeons left us during the prevalence of the Cholera; they are now [4th inst.] returning, which I take to be a good omen. Was this instinct, or what other cause induced them to abandon their friends?"

Tennessee is suffering from drought. Every thing, says the Nashville Banner, is parched; and corn, it is learned, is already beyond remedy.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE RECORDER.

*Alabama, July 29, 1833.*

Messrs. Editors :—Feeling a deep interest in the cause of humanity, and believing the welfare of the community specially connected with the success of the Thomsonian System of Medical Practice, and that you are endeavoring, by the most honorable efforts in your power, to do ample justice to the cause and to its founder, you will please to receive the humble efforts of my feeble pen to bear testimony to the superior merits of his great and astonishing discoveries.

In accomplishing this purpose, I shall proceed to relate the cause or circumstance that first turned my attention to the system and induced me, on mature reflection, to become a believer in, and consequently an advocate of, the Thomsonian Practice.

Previous to the spring of 1831, my wife had been afflicted with a consumptive indisposition for five preceding years. In that period, I had tried the skill of several of the Faculty, who were accounted eminent in the profession, but all our efforts were unavailing—no permanent benefit was obtained.

Her situation became so hopeless, and the means that had been used proved so ineffectual, in affording relief, that her confidence in medicine was so far abated that she declined any farther use of any remedies of any kind. It was a discouraging circumstance that, notwithstanding all her efforts for relief, she rather grew worse. Thus enfeebled and declining, it was her wish to continue out the residue of her days as comfortably as possible, undisturbed, unperplexed and uninjured by unprofitable and often distressing applications of noisome drugs.

She was deeply impressed with the idea that her case was beyond the reach of medical skill and relief. Often, as she reclined her weary head upon her pillow, turning her eyes affectionately on her little children, as they prattled round the room, tears of ma-

ternal grief would trickle down her pale cheek, which plainly told us of foreboding apprehensions that the time of her departure was rapidly approaching. Her concern for her children was greatly aggravated by my indisposition. I labored under a grievous dyspepsia, by which I was reduced to a mere skeleton. I too had sought relief in vain. The prospect before us was, a family of orphan children to be cast upon an unfriendly world, destitute of the provident care or protection of either father or mother.

A moment's reflection on these afflictive circumstances, will convince any one that all our earthly sources of enjoyment must have been at a very low ebb. In 1830, a rumor of the Thomsonian practice having been introduced into a remote section of this county, reached our ears. The system met with opposition so inveterate and violent, that it spread but slowly. In the spring of 1831, there was a Steam Doctor came into my neighborhood and had good success in the little practice that fell to his lot. He appeared anxious for our situation, and wished for me and my wife to try the effects of the practice, though I must confess I had but little faith.

At length I came to the conclusion that, having but once to die, and believing the time of our dissolution was near, the Doctor having lent me his books, under the impression that I would yield to the dictates of reason, I read, reflected, and submitted, and was soon convinced of the extraordinary efficacy of the system.

My wife resolved once more to try the virtue of medicine. I was a minute observer. On the 10th of June, 1831, about 10 o'clock, A. M. we got thro' the first course of the Thomsonian course of medicine. It would be almost incredible to relate the cankerous sough and lumps of corrupted kind of matter that came from her stomach, had not many others, in similar circumstances, had a like experience from Thomsonian remedies. It is almost needless here to add that she obtained immediate relief.

On the 27th of June following, I purchased a right, and pursued the practice on myself and wife, and have

the consummate satisfaction to state, that we are, at this time, in the enjoyment of good health. We were made sound and well in less than three months, to the astonishment of our acquaintances, who were by no means expecting such a favorable result. I have succeeded in curing several instances of fever, and other forms of disease, that have occurred in my family since that time, such as are frequent in our country.

Since the 15th of last May, I commenced as a practitioner in my neighborhood and its vicinity, and have relieved between forty and fifty patients laboring under disease in various forms, such as fever, dropsy, and in cases of measles terminating in a disordered state of the lungs. Some of these had been given over by the Faculty as desperate or incurable cases, viz: 2 in the dropsy, 2 laboring under fever, one a case of measles, as above named; one was a case of dyspepsia, and another a consumption. I have not lost a single patient, and am now extremely busy from day to day, and sometimes the whole night, administering to the relief of my fellow-beings, alleviating their pains, removing disease, and making converts to the Thomsonian system.

I have much opposition and persecution to endure. My friends sometimes say, that they think I am better qualified to bear persecution, than almost any person they have ever known; but I would cheerfully bear as much more, if it should fall to my lot in such an important and glorious a cause, as I believe this to be. In the success of the system I feel myself amply remunerated for all I am doomed to suffer. I have tested its efficacy, and recommend it, with continually increasing confidence, to the world of mankind.

J. W. W.

## THOMSONIAN MEETING.

### COMMUNICATED.

At a special meeting of the Hamilton and Rossville Friendly Eclectic Branch Society, held at the Court House in said Hamilton, on the evening of Monday, August 19th, 1833, for the purpose of uniting with the citizens of said towns and vicinity, who feel friendly to

said system of Medicine, in such measures as shall seem best calculated to meet the alarming crisis, and to secure and render to the Botanic Physicians such aid, and to the sick such comfort, as the afflicting circumstances may hereafter require.

The Society and citizens being assembled, and the object of the meeting made known, several letters and communications were read previous to the adoption of the following preamble and resolutions, which, after being offered, were unanimously adopted, to wit:—

Whereas, that awful plague, (the Cholera,) that has ravaged Asia, and claims its thousands in Europe, and spread its ravages throughout almost every part of the American continent, appears now to be creeping upon the citizens of the towns of Hamilton and Rossville, and their vicinities, we believe it to be our duty to make every preparation in our power to sustain the shock, should it come upon us more violent, by trying to assist our afflicted neighbors.

In many places in Asia, Europe, and America, where this scourge has made its appearance, the physicians, clergy, nurses, and citizens, have disgraced human nature by flying from their afflicted neighbors, leaving them to combat death in its most dreadful form and character, without physician, without nurse, and without a Minister of the Gospel to console them in the last agonies of existence, and the dark hour of death—and, worst of all, not a friend near them, to hand them a drink of water to quench their parched thirst.— Shall that be the case with, and conduct of, the friends of the Botanic Society of Hamilton and Rossville? Let us, by our resolutions and pledge, this evening, say No.

As this is a crisis of great moment—a time of much anxiety, and general excitement—a time when men's hearts begin to fail through fear and want of confidence in the remedy in general use—and, as we of the Thomsonian Society are so highly pleased, and much gratified, while we now make known to our citizens that the two Thomsonian physicians from Cincinnati, who have left their homes and their business, for the purpose of meeting that terrible

Epidemic in this neighborhood: Believing, also, that they have remedies which, when timely and properly applied, will arrest the Cholera from assuming its most violent form: And, as those medicines are nothing more nor less than Thomsonian medicines, of which many of us are partially acquainted, and are sincere and candid in what we say, as they that must give account to God for all our words and actions—We say, we believe they are the best remedies known to the civilized world. Also, believing that much depends upon strictly following the Physician's prescription, and the faithful duties and perseverance of the nurse—and that few (if any) of the members of the family of the Cholera patient, are capable of properly following the directions of the Botanic Physician—We, therefore, deem it proper to pass the following Resolutions: [Members of the Society present, answered to their names, before offering the resolutions for their consideration.]

1st. *Resolved*, That if the alarming Epidemic, (the Cholera,) shall prevail with violence within these towns, and members of this Branch Society should be attacked therewith, that we, as a joint body, do hereby bind ourselves each to all, and all to one, to see that nothing is wanting in medicine, nursing, nourishment, or other necessary attention, determined hereby that the medicine shall be faithfully administered, agreeable to the direction of either of the Thomsonian Physicians.

2d. *Resolved*, That we now invite all of our follow-citizens who may feel disposed to participate in the benefits of the foregoing resolve, and are determined to be treated with our remedies, in case they should be attacked with the Cholera, to come forward and give their names; and that all who do so, shall be considered by us fully entitled to our services and attention, should any of them take sick, and so vice versa.

*Names given in of such as are are not members.*

P. F. Narden, R. Steward, George Snider, A. Steward, T. Tindol, Isaac Matthias, J. Manealy, James Anderson, A. T. Woodrough, Jacob Mat-

thias, William Harrison, Samuel Mitchell, David Kerstner, G. H. G. Stackhouse, L. R. Cooch, Mark Boatman, Joseph Riley, Isaac Paxton, Samuel Fields, William Hunter, Jeremiah Dodson, Andrew Lister, Daniel Seward, Jacob Flagg, W. J. Stephenson, J. A. Garver, Harrison Erb, Isaac Hull, Richard Easton, David Clark, J. H. Thomas, Frederiek Devou, Henry Stimson, Andrew Curtis, David Searls, David Bowers, William Phares, Bennet Carter, John Crane, D. N. Osburn, William Webster, J. S. Hazlet, Robert Havens, Erastus Squires, Leonard Garver, Charles Morris, Dayton Low, J. M. Chapman, Dr. J. W. Baldwin, Wm. Murray, Wm. C. Harper, Joseph Stimson, Rev. Joel Havens, Daniel Thomson, Robert Doty, Caleb Bowers, J. B. Thomas, P. M.; Hiram Busby.

3d. *Resolved*, by the unanimous voice of all present, members and citizens, that we invite the Rev. Wilson Thomson, of Lebanon, Ohio, to deliver a Lecture in the Court-House, as soon as convenient for him—notice of which will be given in the newspapers printed in Hamilton and Rosville.

4th. *Resolved*, That the proceedings of this meeting be printed in the newspapers of Hamilton and Rosville.

ISAAC T. SAUNDERS, Presl.  
ROBERT HEWES, Secretary.  
Hamilton, Aug. 19, 1833.

### THOMSONIAN.

*To the Editor of the Maysville Monitor.*

DEAR SIR: Previous to our late visitation of Cholera, but little was known or said, in our city, about the Thomsonian System of Medicine. But few of our citizens knew any thing of the astonishing effects of the simple remedies for disease, compounded and offered to the world by Doctor Samuel Thomson. Since that time, Lobelia, Cayenne, Cholera Preventive, Nerve-powder, Number Six, &c. &c. &c. are names quite familiar in our common conversations. A social group seldom assemble at a corner to hear and tell the news of the day, without saying something for or against this new system, as it is called here. The ladies,

we are told, seldom gather in the social circle, or surround the enlivening tea-board, without paying some attention to this all-absorbing subject. Even our children are learning to lip these strange names which are so often, and with so much emphasis, repeated in their hearing.

This valuable system then had, in all our city, some half dozen feeble advocates—feeble because they had seen its virtues but partially developed.—Now we have some hundreds boldly attesting and ably defending its virtues. Good witnesses they are too; not talking about mere hear-says and reports, but what they have *seen* and *know*, they will declare unto you. They have *felt* its happy effects in their own persons and have *seen* it raise their friends, when sunk beneath the reach of all other remedies within their knowledge.

When our oldest and ablest Physicians had abandoned us to the destroyer—had frankly and candidly acknowledged, “that all *their* remedies had failed”—“that they knew of no safety but in flying to the country”—“that they and their families were going”—“they had no inducement to stay”—“they could not control the disease.” Some twenty or more having already fallen, with but little if any prospect of a single recovery under their treatment. When these hitherto only guardians of our health and our lives were thus discomfited and driven to despair—when, instead of looking upon the dead and dying with their usual stoic philosophy, they appeared to see ghosts and spectres in every dying face—when, instead of entreating and exhorting us fearlessly to nurse our sick, and boldly to bury our dead, they paralyzed the last spark of our remaining courage, by admonishing us to fly for our lives from the infection. It was then—it was at this appalling moment, that they saw with astonishment the incomparable superiority of this system.

“It cured beyond the Doctors’ skill,”  
 “It robbed the destroyer of his sting,”  
 “It stopped the march of death.”

To stop the mouths of these witnesses, or curb the zeal of these advocates, while these scenes remain fresh in

their memories, would be impossible. And among the portion of our citizens who were absent, or whose caution and timidity kept them from witnessing, or seeing for themselves, the virtues of this system tested; there are a few whose scepticism, together with the opposition of our old Medical Faculty, have been just about sufficient to keep up a fair excitement; or what may be called “*a healthy action*” on this subject.

It is now known, and cannot be successfully controverted, that the Thomsonian system, whenever with promptness and energy administered, not only in Maysville, but from Baltimore to St. Louis, and from Montreal to New Orleans, has been much more successful in the treatment of Cholera than the popular practice. And its success is not confined to this disease only, but its superiority has been fairly tested in every departure from a healthy action to which our climate and manner of life subjects us.

These facts have become so notorious that they will form a part of the history of our country; and, but for the influence of our old Medical Faculty, would, ere this, have formed a much greater portion of the news of the day. Boards of health are made up in other cities and towns, we presume, as they are here, partly of Doctors. And Doctors, we know, make many crooks and turns rather than admit that the poor despised Thomsonians are curing Cholera. We have seen even our own Board of Health, with a Doctor at their head, report that Maysville was free of Cholera, when attacks were daily occurring, and at a time when our Thomsonians were constantly employed, though our Doctors may not have been troubled with a call to disturb the quiet of their shops. Such reports, rather than plain statements of the ravages of the disease and the success or failure of the various modes of treatment, have filled the columns of our newspapers. In all the numerous cities and towns where the Thomsonians have succeeded, where is the first report of a Board of health shewing the number of cases under each treatment; the recoveries and deaths of each. On this subject all is kept dark, and ever



will be, while Doctors preside in our Boards of Health, and while our Thomsonians cure as large a majority of their patients as die under the treatment of the Faculty.

In all our newspaper reports, we have seen but one, drawing this important distinction, and that appears to be drawn up by the Editor himself. It is in the Columbus, Ohio Monitor, of July 31st. His prejudices have all dissolved and he has mustered courage to come out boldly with the truth—the whole truth, in the face of the Faculty. He uses this unequivocal language:—  
“As we believe that the Botanic method of treating the Cholera is far more successful than any other, we will not be wanting to the cause of humanity nor to our sense of duty in withholding that opinion from our readers. Slow as prejudices are in giving way to new improvements, there has been such a change in favor of the Botanic mode of treatment, *that it is for distant readers*, and not for *town* readers, that we present this information. It is in those towns which have not yet had the Cholera, whose attention we would call to the Thomsonian remedies, or those Botanic remedies which are but another modification of them. The consideration of one fact is enough to put any one on a right turn of reasoning on this subject. It is that the patient must be soon helped, or he will be dead.

“The operation of the third preparation, [Botanic] (we would say of Thomson's No. 1,) is often in ten minutes, causing him to break out into a profuse sweat and shortly to relieve his cramps and all other pains.

“Let it be remembered that *but one* case in this town has failed in the Botanic treatment, when that treatment has not been disturbed by other Doctors; but *two*, where there has been this joint attendance, and the list that has been cured shows itself in numbers below.”

Here follows a list of the names of twenty-five cured to one death. He then adds a list of nine dead and ten cured by the regular faculty, omitting the penitentiary reports. What an astonishing difference: nine deaths out of nineteen, to one death out of twenty-six. Well may our editor say, that the

question of success is settled in Columbus. “*That it is for far distant readers and not for town readers that we present this information.*” How humble is this to the so highly exalted—the *L.* protected Medical Faculty of Ohio. In sight of the State-House, which emanated the law which elevated to exclusive privileges, and *well* poor despised Thomsonian to a level with the Gambler, by withholding from him all remedies for his well-earned fees, as we do from our gamblers their ill-gotten winnings.

Let it be remembered that *Columbus* too has a Board of Health, and, *though* they have not, like ours, denied the existence of the Cholera, yet they have suppressed all these facts; and, *for* the boldness and high *sense* of duty of this single editor, they could never have found their way into a newspaper, and been spread “*for the benefit* of the towns which have *not* yet had the Cholera.”

Yes, our Boards of Health act on this subject, as though they would prefer the death of their neighbors, under the inefficient remedies of the Regular Physicians, to the preservation of their lives by the more efficient Thomsonian remedies, which have every where proved almost infallible. And we regret that the editors of our newspapers generally, have suppressed with high sense of duty to their neighbors which prompted the editor of the *Columbus Monitor* to publish the above facts.

And, though we could here offer an apology for the editors of our own *Monitor* and *Eagle*, “that they were absent during the worst of our calamity,” yet we think they too have been quite remiss on this subject. ‘Tis true they cheerfully published our communication on the subject, not questioning a statement; but the people at a distance and where we are personally unknown, wanted more than the testimony of a single witness to establish a fact so strange, as that a Thomsonian should cure a disease that our ablest Doctors “could not control,” but from what they would advise their patients and friends to run away. We regret extremely that this support was withheld; for, astonishing as has been the influence of our single statement, and

numerous as have been the individuals whose lives have been saved by a reliance on our simple but efficient remedies ; yet we are confident that hundreds more would have procured and successfully used them, had such a support of our testimony been given to confirm their wavering faith. Now, my dear sir, the object of the above remarks are not to censure your former course, but to shew that the astonishing cures which the Thomsonian System are effecting, has not only blended with the history of our country, but as its achievements from no small portion of the news of the day, it is a proper subject for the columns of your liberal and useful paper. This subject is now attracting so much attention that we question if any subject could, at this moment, be introduced into your columns that would be perused with equal interest.

The great efforts of our Doctors and Boards of Health to suppress these matters, and the general silence of newspapers on the subject, at which we have only glanced above, so far from satisfying the people's curiosity, has increased it ; and they are now seeking for it as they would for some great secret or some hidden mystery.

The members of "*Friendly Botanic Society*" commonly called *Thomsonians*, in this city and its vicinity, are becoming quite numerous, and many of them are not only intelligent in these matters, but they are quite communicative. We are satisfied that they possess much information respecting this original and truly great medical genius, Doctor Samuel Thomson, and the very valuable system with which he has favored us, that will greatly interest and possibly permanently benefit a great portion of your readers.

We would, with all these circumstances before us, ask you to open your columns to us ; and if you give to us the room and privileges of a correspondent, you will please publish this as a kind of introductory communication.—We ask no exclusive privileges—we wish to subject ourselves to the rules of your correspondents. The cause we plead is a simple one ; it requires no extraordinary exertions, nor exclusive privileges to sustain it. Truth must

triumph over error where both are equally exhibited. Publish to your readers our story of what this system has done, that they may be induced to meet us at the bed-side and see what it can do. We expect not their blind assent ; we ask them to open their eyes and see ; we do not ask their subscription to a splendid visionary theory of disease ; we would only have them see our remedies aid nature in throwing off disease, and contrast it with the unnatural popular practice of depletion. The superiority of the system once established by this simple mode of demonstration, we expect an easy task in establishing the true greatness of its founder. By many who are ignorant of his character, he is regarded as a mere ignorant quack ; but those who have the best knowledge of his talents and have tested the merits of his discoveries, fearless of contradiction, affirm that this generation can boast of but one Samuel Thomson.

NATHAN HIXSON.

On the 17th of June, a gentleman of Lexington, Kentucky, thus expresses himself :—*Western Journal*.

"It is now calculated—and they are beginning to muster up the names, &c. of the *missing*—that not less than 400 have fallen—and *two-thirds of the population absent!* The general suffering has been necessarily great—but cases of *individual* suffering would require volumes. For instance—while Mr. D. and his wife were *both dying*, at midnight, a young gentleman *alone* was attending them, when a loud rap called him to the door. It was a little girl of 10 years old, begging him, "for God's sake, to come over the way and help her poor father—he was dying, and she could not get any body to come in." Her poor mother had been buried that afternoon. She returned and had to close his eyes *alone*. Hundreds of cases, even more affecting than this, might be enumerated. But I forbear. Our physicians say (as perhaps you do) that the disease is *under the control of medicine*, if taken in season—i. e. as I understand it, *before the Cholera sets in*. But, if *Cholera* is so easily cured, please tell me why our learned body of physicians have let 400 slip through their fingers."

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**THE RECORDER.**


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**COLUMBUS,**


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**SATURDAY, SEPT. 7, 1833.**


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**ENERGETIC PRACTICE.**


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In medical practice, the judicious practitioner will apportion his means and apply them to meet the exigency of each case respectively. The engineer adapts the power of his machinery to suit the size and burthen of his boat. Reason, age of the patient, and the symptoms attending, should govern our measures in relation to the sick.—The same quantity of medicine that will have a salutary effect, in the incipient stage of disease, or when there is but a small degree of disease existing, may be insufficient to produce any sensible or efficient operation when the excitability is far gone and the remainder rapidly declining. In all cases of an extreme and advancing exhaustion of the vital powers, it will not answer any valuable purpose to act the part of mere spectators and lookers on—then is the time for active exertion. We have so many cases of the successful treatment of Cholera patients, faithfully recorded, who, from a state of extreme collapse, have been revived and restored by Thomsonian remedies, that all our powers of body and mind should be roused to vigorous exertion in behalf of those who are suffering under the distresses of that terrible form of disease. The more hopeless the case, the more vigorous should be our efforts. We should not remit our efforts to save a drowning man though he appears to be sinking for the last time, but to double our diligence to effect his deliverance from impending

death. When the mineral practitioner in desperate cases puts down his camel by spoonfulls, shall the Botanic be remiss in giving larger and more frequent doses of his safe and salutary remedies in cases of uncommon emergency, than he would in the ordinary forms of disease? A letter from a highly esteemed correspondent at St. Louis, dated August 14th, 1834, one month from the very day in which the first case of Cholera made its appearance in Columbus, fully accords with our ideas on the subject. May it every where awaken an ingenuous attention to the instructions of an experienced and truly successful Thomsonian practitioner. The communication is from the pen of Dr. Rice, whose ability, talents, and Botanic skill, those who know him best, will the most highly appreciate. Speaking of the treatment of Cholera, the Doctor observes, “As for my part, I have never seen a case that I wanted any thing better than the genuine medicine which Dr. Thomson has recommended, and with it I have been able to save 69 out of 70 cases, where I was called first. Some cases I have found so obstinate that I have given, in the short space of 15 minutes, *fourteen* doses of the emetic, two ounces of Cayenne, two ounces of the Third Preparation, and four ounces of Cholera Syrup, with warm tea. The effect was relief! Thus I proceed, in every case, increasing or regulating the quantity of medicine according to the symptoms or violence of the attack.

In some Cholera cases, where the stomach has been in an high state of irritability, I have given a table-spoonful of salt, and a spoonful of the Third Preparation, combined with warm water or tea, and it appeared to me to answer a valuable purpose to allay the irritation that disturbed the stomach. For

good of the system I transmit to these interesting facts.

In pursuing the course of practice prescribed by our intelligent, observant, experienced and successful friend, the following pre-requisite qualifications in the administrator are important, if not indispensable:—

1st. A correct understanding of the great original and discriminating principles that govern a genuine Thomsonian course of medical practice.

2d. Confidence in the system as precat on the immutable basis of unviating truth.

3d. Promptness of disposition active to engage to carry into complete effect the remedial means appertaining to that system.

4th. Decision. With Thomson this indispensable—a wavering, doubting, vacillating, mongrel practice, never as, nor never will be, eminently successful. The most decided, unequivocal, undeviating adherence to the prescriptions and rules of the venerable founder of the New Botanic System, can alone secure success to the Thomsonian, and lay a foundation for a permanent fame, when the ephemeral breath of fawning flattery, partial connivance, and empty compliments with which the sharper, the beggar, the knave, and the fool, discharge their bills, die away! the sport of the idle wind!

5th. Energy and perseverance. If the practitioner, qualified as above stated, should highly appreciate the knowledge he possesses, realize the value of human life, the powerful efficacy of Thomsonian remedies, and his high responsibility, he should consider the same acquired by practising brethren in the cities of Richmond, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and an hundred other places, where some of the most hopeless

and desperate cases of Cholera ever known to be recovered by medicine, the sick have been speedily relieved from the power of the noisome pestilence, and restored to their accustomed health and vigor. In our own metropolis some eminent cures have been effected.

True it is that all men are mortal!—The great decree has gone forth. It is appointed unto all men once to die.—The irrevocable mandate stands enrolled in the records of human destiny: But heaven's mercy, in the dispensation of an all-pervading Providence, that—

“Extends through all extent,

“Spreads undivided, operates unspent”—

has established a wise, benevolent, and astonishing connexion between means and ends, or causes and effects. By this divinely gracious provision, nature furnishes, through her vast dominions, food for the hungry, for the thirsty, drink, and medicine to remove disease. It is our lot to live in an age of discovery and improvement, not only in the mechanic arts and the sciences in general, but in the science of medicine more especially. The Botanic Physician has every rational inducement to be found faithful at his post and to discharge his duty. As we have sundry instances on record of Cholera victims who have been buried alive, humanity requires a solemn care that no such untoward accident occurs where we have any control. Such casualties call in accents of thunder that, in our attentions to the sick, we should persevere to the last ebbing of the tide of human life!

Professor Ventouillac, of King's College, has translated Watson's reply to Paine into French.

**Lightning.**—During a thunder-storm on Sunday afternoon last, the Congregational Church in New Preston, was struck by lightning while a large assembly was convened in it, and in the act of public worship. In its descent to the lightning-rod attached to the cupola of the building, a part of the stream of electric fluid was attracted by the stove pipe at the ridge of the house. The shock was so severe that many were thrown from their seats, and for a few moments the wildest confusion reigned; sighs, shrieks, and every demonstration of terror was manifested by those in the immediate vicinity of the angles of the stove-pipes on both sides of the house. One person had the shoe torn from the foot and the stocking considerably torn, and yet received no alarming injury. When the first burst of consternation had a little subsided, a young man who was seated in a slip where stands a pillar for the support of the gallery, and to which an iron brace is attached to aid in the support of one of the stove-pipes, was discovered leaning against the pillar, and the change which had taken place in the countenance during the lapse of from three to five minutes of suspended animation, drew from an observer the exclamation that Mr. Hatch was injured. This announcement was heard by the brother of the stricken man, a physician, who instantly flew to him, and with the assistance of such as had presence of mind sufficient for the emergency, had him conveyed to the air, and, by the abundant application of cold water to the head and breast, together with persevering frictions, for the space of five or six minutes, signs of returning life began to appear. He was then removed into the open air and soon recovered.

Let all who may see the history of this awful visitation, recollect the means by which a fellow-mortal was, by the blessing of heaven, resuscitated, and the life of an interesting member of community preserved. In this case all signs of life were actually suspended for at least ten minutes, and probably 12 or 14. Other visitations of the kind may be experienced—be prepared for them.—*Comm.*

During the same shower, which was exceedingly violent, the Meeting-

House at South Farms was also struck by lightning during divine service. The rod attached to the building ran down to the earth, and without doing any other damage, breaking a few glasses near the altar and slightly stunning a few people in the church. The lightning struck several other places, and an old man was killed by the fluid in the west part of South Farms.—*Litchfield Express.*

#### LOTION FOR THE ITCH.

Take of the tops of the buds and burs of Meadow Sweet, one pound, fresh gathered; of starved Yellow Dock-Roots, Equisetum Roots, the roots of the Butter-bur, and of the heads, leaves, and burs of Mayweed, each half a pound, all well bruised—of the Lobelia tops, leaves, and seeds, four ounces—beat them all into two gallons of water down to one gallon—strain off the liquor—put in the roots, &c. into the vessel. To this add four ounces of the bark of the root of Sassafras and half a gallon of proof spirits—place over the fire and boil fifteen or twenty minutes—strain and mix the whole together. To the liquor add two ounces of finely pulverized Sal Ammoniacum, (Mountain Ammonia,) found in the Apothecary shops, and boil the whole away to a gallon—settle and pour off the dregs, and bottle in pint bottles. This lotion is to be applied to the affected parts by wetting a piece of sponge or clean linen rag therewith, washing the eruptions. This is an excellent application for cutaneous affections. It is much more cleansing than oily and unctuous preparations. After applying the lotion four or five days for the itch, the sheets and your shirt should be changed, and clean linen worn next to the skin, and every article of apparel and bedding changed, cleansed, that nothing of the infection be retained whereby the complaint may be re-produced.

A little girl who had been advertised as lost, some time since, in Alabama, has been just discovered. She had been stolen by some villain, who colored her face and disguised her so successfully that he sold her as a negro slave.



# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let... be stripped of all pretence,"

"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HERSEY, *Senior Editor.*

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FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

The death of Mr. Hinckley, of Boston, was some days ago announced as having been facilitated by the violent and inappropriate treatment of a Steam doctor.

The following account of a post mortem examination of the deceased, by some of our eminent Surgeons and Physicians, we copy from the Daily Advertiser, for the information and benefit of the public :

"The subscribers, at the request of the attending Physician, Dr. Wing, made the examination of Mr. Hinckley's body, in the afternoon of the day of his decease, in the presence of Dr. W. and Mr. Thompson. The body was very little if at all emaciated. The lungs were the organs principally affected. They exhibited marks of extensive disease ; but had not advanced to such a state as to threaten speedy death. We believe that persons often live for months, perhaps years, with lungs as much diseased ; always, however, in a feeble state, and requiring peculiar care. Every portion of the the lungs was excessively engorged with blood. The engorgement was undoubtedly produced by the means used to excite sweating and vomiting immediately before his death. The blood was, by these means, forced into the lungs more rapidly than, in their diseased state, it could be transmitted through them ; and suffocation and death was the necessary consequences. These appearances, taken in connexion with the circumstances of the case, furnish to our minds unequivocal evidence that the direct and immediate cause of death, was the inappropriate treatment to which he was subjected.

Signed

E. HALE, Jr.

J. THOMAS,

J. G. STEPHENSON,

J. W. McKEAN.

Dated, Boston June 27, 1833."

The preceding extract, the reader will perceive, was first written by certain Physicians in Boston, for the express purpose of heaping disgrace and calumny on the safe, efficacious and admirable system of Dr. Samuel Thomson.

In their *post mortem* examination, they have evinced a disingenuous design to exhibit the dark side of the picture, and studiously to conceal the real condition of the patient. They speak in general terms, and leave us to conjecture that the complaint was a Phthisis, or Pulmonary consumption. Whether it was the first, second, or more advanced stage, they do not say ; and, from the obscure and reserved way in which they express themselves, in relation to this point, we are led to the conclusion that they did not really know, or that, if they did know, they did not feel disposed honestly and impartially to state the whole truth in relation to the case. The fame of Thomsonian Remedies, in removing consumptive complaints, and, in divers instances, in recovering persons from Phthisis, has become too notorious throughout the United States to escape their observation. This form of disease having so uniformly baffled their learned skill, what more mortifying to their pride, more uncongenial to their feelings than to find a rival in Doctor Samuel Thomson?

But "the lungs," in this case, as stated by the examiners, "were the organs principally affected ; they exhibited marks of extensive disease, but had

not advanced to such a state as to threaten speedy death." This we all know must have been mere matter of conjecture. For the lungs to be so extensively diseased, and yet little or no immediate danger existing, though among possible cases, yet, in every case, could the extent of the diseased state of the lungs be fairly ascertained to have proceeded as far as it had in this case, it is presumed that most physicians would apprehend great and appalling danger.

"We believe," say they, "that persons often live for months, perhaps years, with lungs as much diseased; always, however, in a feeble state, and requiring peculiar care." What, were the lungs "the organs principally affected?" Did they exhibit marks of being "extensively diseased?" Are such persons always in a "feeble state, requiring peculiar care?" and yet no "immediate danger existing?" Why, then, do such cases require that "*peculiar care*?"

"We believe," say they, but they do not appear to be very certain on this particular case, "that persons often live for months, perhaps years, with lungs as much diseased." But will these learned gentlemen say that it is always the case? No. They will only say, "persons often live," &c., but not even these, without "*peculiar care*." They have not told us that Mr. Hinckley had been favored with this "*peculiar care*;" if not, his must have been a dangerous case, and not included among that class of persons who "*often live months and years*."

Would these Physicians have us to believe that death by consumption, even sudden, surprising, and unexpected, is of such rare occurrence in Boston and its vicinity, that no other reason can be assigned for Mr. Hinckley's death, than

the "means used to excite sweat and vomiting immediately before death."

This is in perfect accordance with those vulgar conclusions which lead the kind, amiable, and judicious practitioner into a labyrinth of difficulties, and involve the innocent into reasonable censure. The ignorant and timorous always imagine that something given to the dying, has been the occasion of his death—according to the dreams of the superstitious, that a drop of water or catnip tea, may be the fell demon that

"Check'd the pulse, and stopp'd the breath,

"And sunk the victim to death."

"Every portion of the lungs," say the examiners, "was extensively engorged with blood." As "the body was very little, if at all, emaciated;" "and the lungs exhibited marks of excessive disease," it is highly probable that this was sudden in its attack and rapid in its progress. These inferences are deduced from general principles, and not from any minute and far description given by the Faculty to satisfy the honest inquirer. In the common lingering process of pulmonary consumption, there is an extreme emaciation, or general wasting of the body, attended with cough that is often troublesome, difficulty of breathing, fever of a hectic kind, most commonly attended with a spitting of purulent matter like that which proceeds from well-digested sores. This matter proceeds from tubercles in the lungs, or from the formation of an abscess therein, in consequence of previous inflammation. Certain preceding affections of the lungs, for instance, an inflammatory diathesis succeeding an unfavorable termination of Small Pox, or Measles, or the occurrence of the rupture of a blood vessel in the lungs, may induce the disease. But admitting that

precedes or accompanies the complaint a purulent and even bloody expectoration, or even more extensive hemorrhage, are emetics to be rejected? Are we to expect, from their use, an "excessive engorgement of the lungs?" "To treat hemorrhage, and particularly hæmoptysis, by emetics, was the practice of Dr. Bryan Robinson, of Dublin," and has been recommended by others eminent in the profession.

"No doubt," says Dr. Chapman, "they will occasionally check pulmonary hemorrhage. I have seen spontaneous vomiting do it, in several instances, and the worst case which ever came under my notice, was completely suspended by a dose of digitalis, which puked violently. Yet I concur with those who hold the practice to be hazardous, and would never resort to it except under urgent circumstances, and where the ordinary remedies had failed. I speak, at present, in relation to cases in which there is a copious hemorrhage, in consequence of the rupture of a vessel of some size.

There being only a slight raising of blood, mixed with the matter expectorated, as commonly happens in tubercles of the lungs, they" [emetics] "may be administered with perfect safety, and sometimes with advantage. Whether we have regard to the reduction of vascular action, or to the restoration of a just distribution of the blood, or to the removal of dyspnoea, [difficulty of breathing,] or the abatement of cough, *emetics* are well suited to meet any, or the whole of these indications. It is in this way that we, in part, imitate the effects of a sea voyage, and command some of its advantages. They, moreover, in some instances, check hectic fever, an ordinary concomitant of this state of things, or which speedily supervenes."

"In support of this practice," says the venerable author, "it may be proper to mention, that it appears on good authority, that the late Dr. Willis, so celebrated for his skill in the treatment of mania, and especially by the cure of the late King of England, was in the habit of recurring to *emetics*, in all cases of hæmoptysis, [bleeding of the lungs,] and that he declared, the lengthened experience of nearly a half

century had taught to confide in them above all other means, as well on *account of their safety*, as efficacy. This is a practical point of great interest," adds the Doctor, "and all my reflection on it, led me to the conclusion that *emetics* have been too hastily decried. As much as any process whatever, *vomiting has the effect of removing congestion*, and rectifying the morbid state of the capillaries, [small vessels,] on which hæmorrhage usually depends." "Of the decided utility of vomiting in hæmatemesis," [vomiting of blood,] the Doctor roundly asserts, "I have long been aware, and resort to it under nearly all circumstances of the idiopathic, [primary,] form of disease, even where there is great debility and prostration. This is a consideration, indeed, which should rarely discourage us, since the energies of the system are almost invariably aroused by the process."

The truly learned Professor from whom we have so extensively quoted, affirms that "*vomiting has the effect of removing congestion*," but "Boston folks are full of notions." The wise men of physic there, conclude that the "engorgement," in Mr. Hinckley's case, he being treated by a Thomsonian, "was undoubtedly produced by the means used to excite vomiting," &c.

If this was a case of acute consumption, there was undoubtedly an inflammation of the lungs, perhaps a rupture of some of the smaller blood vessels, and, as Mr. J. Bell observes, concerning the cause of death, in many cases, of Peripneumonia notha, so we would say, it was probably the case with Mr. Hinckley—"it is not from inflammation, pain, fever, or acute suffering, that they die, but because the lungs are entirely crammed, the heart can no longer move, but are suffocated in a moment and die without a groan."

Even in this form of disease, the learned teach us "that our attention should be directed to the morbid contents of the stomach, and to induce a discharge from the lungs by expectoration." But how is this load with which the lungs are crammed, to be removed? A writer of the first respectability remarks, "For this purpose, an *emetic*

of Ipecacuanha, with three or four grains of turpeth mineral should be administered." The reason certainly must be because "vomiting has the effect of removing," rather than inducing "congestion," or engorgement of the lungs.

But Mr. Hinckley's case was consumption, and "we believe," say the wise men of Boston, "that persons often live for months, perhaps years, with lungs as much diseased." This is an indirect admission that they believed that, in this very case, the prospect of cure was hopeless; and they admit, had he survived yet longer, he must have dragged through a "*feeble state*," and even then he would have "*required peculiar care*." Whatever the Bostonian Faculty may think, Dr. Thomas assures us that "Pulmonary Consumption is, in every case, to be considered as attended with much danger; but it is more so when it proceeds from tubercles, [small indurated tumors dispersed through the cellular substance of the lungs,] than when it arises in consequence of hæmoptysis, [spitting of blood,] or pneumonic suppuration. In the last instance the risk will be greater where the abscess breaks inwardly, and gives rise to empyema," [a sore containing a collection of pus, or corruption, that is formed on the pleuritis, or membrane that lines the thorax, or upper chest of the body,] "than when its contents are discharged by the mouth. Even cases of this nature have, nevertheless, been known to terminate in immediate death."

But it will be contended that Mr. Hinckley took emetics, and, in despite of reasoning on the subject, that it could not have been good treatment. But, reader, the objection is not against emetics, but against emetics administered by Thomsonians. Regular hands have a magic power over the articles of the Materia Medica. They can, in the estimation of the ignorant carping multitude, by a little address and skillful management, convert the most deadly poisons into safe and salutary medicine.

On the use of emetics in Phthisis or Consumption, and to establish the idea of their safety, utility, and indispensable importance, we could give an host of

respectable authorities; we will, however, content ourselves by reciting sentiments of Robert Thomas, M.D.

"In the early stage of Phthisis [Consumption,] says the Doctor, the exhibition of an emetic, every second or third day, is usually attended with a very happy effect, and seems indeed to be one of the most powerful remedies we know of. As such, it should not be neglected, with an exception in pregnant women. From the cupri sulphat, [sulphur of copper, blue stone,] having been found to excite vomiting readily and easily without relaxing the stomach, irritating the intestines, or greatly fatiguing the patient, it has been more generally used in Phthisical cases than any other medicine of the same class. The dose is from three grains to ten or fifteen, in proportion to the age of the patient, dissolved in two or three ounces of water. A vomiting is excited soon after it is received into the stomach, on which the patient may drink a pint of water."

"Dr. Maryatt seems to have been one of the first who recommended the employment of the cupri sulphat, [blue stone,] as an emetic in Phthisical cases. He advises it to be combined with Tartarized Antimony, [Tartar Emetic,] in the proportion of six grains of each, which he directs to be divided into three powders, one of which is to be given twice or thrice a week. When any diarrhoea attends, he gives one grain of the cupri sulphat, [blue stone,] with five grains of Ipecacuanha. During the operation of the medicine, he advises nothing to be drunk, for which reason he calls it the dry vomit."

"Dr. Sentre," [of Newport, with whose venerable perception we had the honor of a long and respectful acquaintance,] in his remarks on Phthisis Consumens, assures us, that he has restored more persons laboring under hectic fever, from glandular suppuration, by vomiting every second or third day, with cupri sulphat, [blue stone,] and giving, in the intervals, as much as the stomach would bear of Griffith's myrrh mixture, than by all other methods he had ever read of or tried."

"To the good effects of the medicine

of treatment pursued by Dr. Sente," says our highly reputed author, "I can bear ample testimony, having adopted it in many cases of incipient Phthisis, with infinite advantage."

Again, he remarks, on the treatment to be pursued in consumption, "In the second stage of the disease, the employment of emetics must be duly persisted in, every second or third morning, in the manner advised during the first stage."

We presume that Mr. Hinckley was not poked with blue stone, nor emetic tartar. No. Had a Regular Doctor administered blue stone or tartar, and he had died, the report would have been that the disease had advanced to, or consisted principally of, a congestive state of inflammatory diathesis. They would to a man have contended that 'the engorgement was undoubtedly produced.' They would then have by the working of the disease, and not by the 'means used to excite vomiting,' subscribed with Chapman, "as much as any process whatever, vomiting has the effect of removing congestion."

The Thomsonian emetic was undoubtedly Lobelia. The Faculty are compelled to acknowledge its excellency. Learned Professors bear testimony of its extraordinary efficacy. Still they look at it with an evil eye. They envy the successfulness of Thomsonians in the use of it, and avail themselves of every opportunity to cry it down.—When S. M. Hazelip died of Cholera, in the City of Baltimore, Dr. Isaac Cole swore pointedly—"Lobelia, I do consider, ought not to be used by any but those who are judicious and acquainted with its effects and qualities. I consider it a dangerous article, and think it improper to be used without experience of persons of good judgment."

Poor fellow! He was constrained to acknowledge, upon his oath, "I have never used it, and have no knowledge of it myself." But still he ventured to say, without any knowledge of it, "*I consider it a dangerous article.*" The Bostonian Doctors also venture to say, "*We believe,*" &c. What a coincidence of views and feelings among these opponents of the Thomsonian System! Cole's *considering*, and the Bostonians *believing*, are beans of the

same kidney. Their belief and conceptions were "conceived in sin and brought forth in iniquity."

Dr. Cole, a Regular Doctor, swore that Thomsonians "have a powder they use, which they call No. 6. I have seen it." Strange to tell, we aver that no Thomsonian has ever seen any such powder. However solemnly Dr. Cole might have "*considered,*" in the former case, we think, in this instance, there was but very little "*consideration.*" If a Regular Doctor, in the city of Baltimore, would swear in such a random manner, would it imply that the age of miracles had returned, if Gentlemen of the same order, in the city of Boston, should even "believe a lie," when it is evident they have "pleasure in unrighteousness."

But these wise men have gone farther than to say merely "*we believe;*" they assert, in positive terms, "The engorgement was undoubtedly produced by the means used to excite sweating and vomiting immediately before his death."

What these means were, they give no intimation. That to excite vomiting, by appropriate means, must be acknowledged to have been judicious treatment. The character of Lobelia is too well established to be shaken by the chicanery, finesse, and sophistry of the schools. Thomsonians will never be induced to abandon it for "blue stone and emetic tartar!" What means were used to excite "*sweating,*" they have not condescended to inform us, but have saddled the reader with their bare *ipse dixit*, thinking to ride us where they please. If to excite sweating, warm herb drink, or Thomson's composition tea were used, they would not have the temerity to betray so much ignorance, as to say remedies like these produced such direful consequences; and, should they venture to say so, all who have witnessed the agreeableness of the composition tea, felt its salutary influence, will be able, from what they have felt and known, to offer their experience in contradiction to such unreasonable assertions. Men may talk gravely and mysteriously about the dreadful consequences of the steam of warm water, and make fools wonder; but, if the mere steam of warm water be so pernicious, when applied



externally to the human body, how much more fatal must it be, to apply the warm water in a more condensed form, not even vaporized! But the "warm or tepid bath," says Dr. Thatcher, "is a remedy from which considerable advantage has frequently been experienced in the different stages of this disorder."

Whether the vapor of warm water was applied in Mr. Hinckley's case, we are left entirely to conjecture.—Thus cautiously and artfully is the communication calculated to make an unfavorable impression on the public mind, and they have so far succeeded as to induce Gales & Seaton to pollute the columns of the *National Intelligencer* with their nefarious slander. An intelligent correspondent, having seen the publication, apprized us of it, which was the first intimation received. He judiciously remarks—"I cannot exactly understand how those learned gentlemen could determine, with so much precision, by the examination of the dead man, whose lungs were *"undoubtedly"* highly enflamed, whether the undue proportion of blood, or the "engorgement" of blood in them, must so positively have been produced by any cause whatever distinct from the natural process of the disease.

"What means would the Bostonian Faculty have used to have prevented or removed congestive engorgement in the lungs? Would they not have used such means as would have had a special determination to the skin, and would also have produced sweating? And what more effectual to accomplish all this, with certainty and safety, than a Thomsonian emetic, Thomsonian perspiratives, and the Thomsonian Vapor Bath, or steam of warm water, discreetly applied to the surface of the body?"

When Mr. Hazelip died in Baltimore, of Cholera, the Doctors kicked up a dust and had a post-mortem examination. Dr. Cole, before mentioned, on his oath, deposed, in describing the case—"I attribute the symptoms to the operation of the whole treatment." He imputes no evil consequences even to Cholera—it is harmless, where you can find a Steam Doctor. Neither Cholera or Consumption

do any harm in their presence. No! But the means used to cure, kills all who die—the rest will live in spite of them.

So far as emetics were concerned, in Mr. Hinckley's case, in producing engorgement of the lungs, we will, for the present, only quote a few words from that well-known, learned, and experienced Professor, B. W. Dudley, of Transylvania University, whose authority the pompous assertion of these Bostonian Doctors cannot entirely overturn: "By the mechanical agitation of the internal organs, from free vomiting, or high effort to vomit," says Dr. Dudley, "the blood is driven to the surface of the body, the coldness of the skin is removed, the internal organs relieved, in part, of congestion, and the vital energies restored."

We have thus briefly reviewed the partial and prejudiced report of Mr. Hinckley's case. We have only heard one side of the story; the tale has been told by the enemies of the Thomsonian System. We find they have not taken tenable ground when privileged to tell their own story, without being cross-questioned. When we hear the other side, we have no doubt we shall discover more of that juggling conjuration, so prevalent among the Faculty, to maintain the vain glory of their craft, and the end of the coalition formed against the Boston System, by the devotees of blue stone and emetic tartar!

In concluding our remarks, we shall only say, with Dr. Thatcher—"It is a melancholy truth, verified in almost every family, that pulmonary consumption constitutes a large proportion of our bills of mortality, and forms one of the most crowded avenues to the tomb. It is supposed that about one-seventh of all the deaths in this state, [Massachusetts,] are to be attributed to this fatal disease." Yet a solitary instance of death, by this disease, treated by a Thomsonian, produces such an excitement, that nothing can appease the jealousy, or satisfy the rapacious cupidity of a designing Faculty, short of a post mortem examination, to furnish a pretext to defame and slander, *secundum artem*, the Thomsonian practice. Death, under the Regular practice."

so universal, it produces no excitement in the ancient city.

The consumptive patient swallows the bluestone and the emetic tartar, from day to day, from the hands of the graduated Doctor, until exhausted nature fails, and he sinks, with skillful management, to an untimely grave.— Like sunrise and sunset, the occurrence is so common, as a matter of course, and what every one expected, the suffering victim retires, almost unnoticed, from the world! O tempora! O mores!

[EDITORS.]

## OBITUARY NOTICES,

AND

### *Incidental Observations.*

It is a painful labor that devolves on us to announce the disease of Miss Emily Pike, daughter of Jarvis Pike, Esq., on Tuesday at 2 o'clock A. M. the 3d instant, of Epidemic Cholera. She was of an extremely delicate habit, and a long previous indisposition, contributed no little to the fatality of the disease. But our painful task is only begun. Mr. Charles C. Beard, who had, during the prevalence of the pestilence, been unremitting in his attentions to the sick, by night and day, was exposed to every danger, by which many suppose the disease to be frequently communicated. He had been laboring under a severe attack of autumnal ague, or rather that form of disease usually denominated *Chills and Fever*. On Monday he had so far recovered as to be abroad and on horseback. At this stage of convalescence, he indulged too freely at the table, and in the use of fruit. His disease relapsed on Monday evening into a confirmed Cholera, with copious and frequent rice water discharges, but, being entirely easy and free from pain, notwithstanding the admonitions of his friends, who saw him sinking, and raised their warning voice, he refused to be apprized of his danger, utterly declined the use of any medicine, on the ground of its being needless, that he was not sick enough to require it, until the insidious foe had gained such hold as to render medical aid entirely unavailing. He was not sufficiently sensible of his danger to consent to the use of any me-

dicine of any consequence until, as dissolution was rapidly approaching, his stomach had become so extremely irritable as to refuse to retain any thing that he could swallow. At 12 o'clock on Tuesday he expired without a pain, a spasm, or a groan, like one quietly sinking into a deep sleep. Immediately after the decease of Mr. Beard, Mrs. Mary Ann Beard, wife of Mr. Charles C. Beard, was seized with confirmed Cholera, in the afternoon of the same day. Through much anxiety, fatigue, care, grief, and night-watching, her premonitory symptoms passed unheeded until the disease began to assume a deadly form. Her rice water discharges were, however, so far arrested that hopes of recovery were entertained and the recurrence of her complaint in a relapsed or aggravated form, terminated in the extinction of her earthly existence on Wednesday, at 2 o'clock P. M. Alfred Beard, son of Charles C. Beard, a child in his third year, who had labored for a long season under a wasting Cholera Infantum, became more violently ill on the decease of his mother, and died on Thursday at 7 o'clock P. M.

Here was truly, in this family, a rapid march of death. Four of its members, in the short space of three days, gathered to the grave. In relation to Mr. and Mrs. Beard, we will just remark, Thomsonian practitioners were in attendance; they had relieved Judge Pike, who, having recently returned from a tedious journey with Mrs. Beard, in the hot weather, from Nashville; had himself been twice subjected to the complaint. They were much exhausted in their tedious attentions to the sick, and, yielding to that solicitude and anxiety natural to sincere friends, in times of imminent danger, they concluded to call in the assistance and advice of their Botanic friends of the Worthington School. In the case of Mr. Beard, they thought it indispensable, in order more effectually to persuade him of the danger of his situation, and, if possible, to induce him to use some remedial means. In the course of the treatment, it so fell out that Mr. Beard and his wife both made use of purgative medicine. Facts and arguments have often been laid before

the reader of our Recorder, to warn Thomsonian practitioners and their patients to avoid the use of medicine of this class, especially in Cholera; still by one casualty or another, they have, alas! too frequently found their way into the stomach and bowels of the sick, reversed the determinations made towards the surface, and the unhappy victim has paid his life a forfeit to that ineligible mode of treatment. No reflection is intended to be cast on the respectable and intelligent physicians whose well-meant endeavors, in these cases, proved abortive. But purgatives, in a vast majority of cases, are totally incompatible and utterly useless in the Thomsonian practice. It is confidently believed that comparatively few deaths have occurred, under any treatment, among the various classes of physicians who have so nobly labored for the benefit of the sick, where purgatives have not been resorted to.

The disease now prevalent often commences in some kind of febrile affections, commonly of the remittent type, runs into a diarrhœa, from which state, if the patient becomes convalescent, by a little neglect or imprudence afterwards, they will often relapse into a confirmed Cholera. On the other hand, a confirmed Cholera relieved, often runs into a lingering convalescence and has to return to health, if he recovers at all, through the thorny route of remittent fever or real ague. The diversity of form, in the prevalent disease, does not appear to arise from any diversity of cause; but a distempered atmosphere finds a diversity of predispositions, of habits, constitutions, exposures, and a great variety of circumstances, having a tendency to a greater or lesser degree of aggravation, when the morbid impression has commenced its operations.

Doctor Drake, in some of his recent remarks concerning Cholera, observes, "Among other spots, it has put forth its power at Blue Licks and Harrodsburgh, old and salubrious watering places; at which, not a few were assembled, under the delusive impression that it would not visit such spots. So far from being safe situations, however, we have understood that the salino-sulphur waters of the

Blue Licks, which operates as a cathartic, were found, in several cases, to be "exciting causes." We will add that, from our own observations, and those of many others, that in every period of the complaint, in most cases, cathartics, [purgatives,] when they have been given, have aggravated rather than relieved the violence of the disease.—EDITORS.

The following desultory remarks on Cholera, are from the pen of a highly respected and intelligent countryman, Dr. D. Drake, and are well worthy the careful and candid perusal of the reading part of the community—more especially those who wish to become acquainted with the great outlines of the history of the rise and progress of that desolating epidemic that is still prevailing in a greater or less degree in diverse sections of our country. This extract is made from "The Western Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences," Vol. 7, No. 25, for April, May and June, 1833:

"For several weeks past the northern parts of Kentucky have been ravaged by the Epidemic. It seems to have extended from the river, at Nashville, into the interior, and yet it appeared at Lexington and Georgetown, before it broke out in Paris and Millsburgh, towns which lie on the great road leading to the ancient metropolis of the State. It is, however, by no means confined to the villages, but invades the most sequestered farm houses, where, in many instances, it has been more fatal than in towns. At other spots, it has put forth its power at the Blue Licks and Harrodsburgh, old and salubrious watering places; at which not a few were assembled, under the delusive impression, that it would not visit such spots. So far from being safe situations, however, we have understood that the salino-sulphur waters of the Blue Licks, which operate as a cathartic, were found in several cases to be an exciting cause.

In all the towns and villages of the region where it prevails, a flight has been the consequence of its first appearance. The idea of contagion seems to have been uppermost in the public mind; and escape, regarded as the

only preventive. Even the medical mind of that district of country, has been mystified by the same phantom; and, in several places, the physicians have not only recommended flight to the inhabitants, but have actually flown themselves; leaving those who could not escape, to grapple with the danger as they might! It is with pain we record such occurrences; but they make a part of the history of the Epidemic, and throw much light on the causes of its great mortality, in a tract of country, where, from the dryness of the calcarious soil, the abundance of subsistence, the comfortable style of living, the orderly habits, and the general intelligence of the people, a mitigated visitation might have been reasonably anticipated.

Last summer the same portion of the State was visited by the Epidemic, in the form of a mild diarrhoea, and in autumn a number of deaths occurred in Maysville, Lexington, and other towns; but it was decidedly fatal in Frankfort only; which, it is worthy of remark, remains almost unaffected the present summer, although most of the surrounding villages and farms are sorely afflicted. The same is true, in nearly an equal degree, of Louisville, which suffered much more, last autumn, than during the present spring and summer.

We have said, that the Epidemic seemed to *advance into* Kentucky from the Ohio river; from the same, it has appeared to advance into the State of Ohio. Many of the towns and villages on both banks of the river, have been invaded and are now suffering, quite up to Pittsburg, which, although defended by a quarantine battery, 8 or 10 miles below the city, has made a number of cases. At Wheeling, not less than in Maysville, it was more severe and fatal. At Bridgeport, opposite the former, it proved suddenly and dreadfully mortal, though on the first day, almost all the inhabitants fled. Steubenville, Gallipolis, and other smaller towns, as New Richmond, 20 miles above Cincinnati, are now suffering more or less. In the rear of all these places, in the southern portions of the State of Ohio, generally, as in the northern parts of Kentucky, it is daily manifesting itself in some new locality.

Thus it seems, like the exhalations of the river, to spread from its valley over the adjoining parts of these two States, and equally, as we understand, over Indiana and Illinois. Indeed the region of country through which the river runs, is that, where, in the West, the disease is now most prevalent; its banks were the first affected, its bed *seems* to be the *nidus* of the pestilence. Thus the spread of Cholera in this country, affords, as it has afforded in all others, much *prima facie* evidence, of contagion—evidence which the credulous think conclusive, and the most philosophical find perplexing.

To this seeming proof of contagious dissemination, we may oppose the unquestionable facts—that diarrhoea or cholera is generally prevalent throughout the same region; that fatal Cholera has occurred, nearly at the same time, in places remote from each other; that the epidemic distemperature appeared along the great rivers, on nearly the same days, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains; that some villages comparatively near to, and in constant intercourse with, towns where the disease prevailed, still remain unaffected, while others more remote are laid waste; as for example, Mayslick, 12 miles from Maysville, on the Lexington road, which remains untouched, while Flemingsburgh, eight miles further off, and remote from the great highway, has already suffered to a degree seldom equalled any where; finally, that the experience of every day augments the number of cases, which could not have been contracted by exposure to others laboring under the malady.

Now, if *any* case of Cholera arise, independently of contagion, *every* case may, and from the moment when it is shown, that the disease can be produced without contagion, it is sound medical logic to conclude that no such principle exists. This conclusion, however, must not be regarded as definitive and final, unless it is shown that a disease, which sometimes originates from some other cause than contagion, can never originate from that cause. Still, it is incumbent on the contagionists to make out every case by special proofs; but, in attempting this, they must ne-

cessarily labor under this disadvantage; that, as the atmosphere is impregnated with a poison which sometimes, at least, produces the disease, it is impossible, in the case in which it follows exposure to a choleric chamber atmosphere, to know whether the disease really arose from that cause. The individual might have been attacked from the other cause, if he had not been subject to contact with the sick. In the case of one individual only, this presumption might always be made; but what shall we say of those well authenticated instances in which several members of a family, and sometimes the visitors are successively taken down, in places where the disease is not prevailing? There are examples of this kind which, we must acknowledge, are embarrassing to the non-contagionists: but they do not establish the existence of contagion—they only render it probable. We shall cite a few not hitherto published.

Dr. B. F. Gard, of this State, has favored us with a letter, from which we make the following extract:—

“I send you a notice of a few cases of Epidemic Cholera which occurred in the village of Lockbourne, 10 or 12 miles from Columbus: About the 20th of October, a family was landed from a canal boat directly from Cleveland.—It was reported by the family where they lodged, that the strange gentleman was afflicted with Cholera Morbus.—The facts, however, soon showed that his disease was malignant Cholera, for he passed rapidly into a state of collapse, and died in a few hours. On the following day, the wife of the deceased was attacked, and, having concealed her situation for some time, medical aid was not obtained until the symptoms became alarming, and she died during the evening.

“Three or four days from the death of the strange lady, the landlord and his wife both took the disease; and a poor woman living three miles distant in the country, having visited the public house for the purpose of rendering some services, was also attacked soon after her return. These cases were treated by Dr. Burrle, of Bloomfield, a gentleman of considerable professional reputation. They all terminated fatally.—

The three other individuals were slightly attacked; they applied early for medical aid, and were soon restored to health.

“It is a remarkable fact, that, of those who attended on the sick, or two escaped an attack of the disease, and that, among the citizens, not a single case occurred except in those who had visited the house above referred to, though there was among them, men of intemperate habits, and those who indulged in a free use of all the fruits of the season. They used no other preventive, than that of avoiding the houses where the Cholera was known to exist. In speaking of those who attended on the sick, I refer to those cases that terminated fatally, for it does not appear that the disease spread in any of the families where the milder cases occurred, as not more than one was attacked in the same family.”

A second example of the same kind is contained in the following extract: a letter from Dr. Greenleaf Norton, dated Decatur, Ohio, June 26th 1833.

“I reside in the country, 2 miles north of Maysville. About six weeks ago, midway between this and that town, and near the road leading with, a man died with but 12 or 18 hours sickness, without having made any application for medical assistance. The day following I learned from his mother, who was with him from the start to the termination of the disease, the history of the symptoms, which satisfied me, at once, that it was Cholera Spasmodica. I had hitherto never seen a case of that disease. Two days after his death, his brother sent me word that he had a “lax,” and asked me to visit him. When I first saw him, the symptoms were, cold extremities, slight spasms, vomiting, &c., his pulse, though weak, was plainly perceptible. He was out of danger in twelve hours, though not yet entirely recovered.

“Being called, two days after, to visit his wife, I saw her at 11 A. M.—she died at 2 P. M. the same day; she was attacked the same morning just before day, with the formidable symptoms, having had a diarrhoea 24 hours previous. Her daughter, 12 years of age, was attacked the morning following, at 8 o'clock, and died in 12 or 18



hours. Some 12 or 15 days since, a Mr. D. and son died 12 miles west of this place, of Cholera; as reported by a neighboring physician. A day or two subsequent to this, a Mr. M., son-in-law of D., living six miles west of this, who had, with his wife, visited the sick and dying relatives, was seized with diarrhoea; he took some medicine of his own prescribing; was considerably better, though not free from the "lax," rode about the country for two or three days, when vomiting suddenly commenced with an increase of the diarrhoea, coldness of the extremities, spasms, &c. His wife having had the "lax" for 24 hours, was attacked with vomiting, &c. at the same time with her husband. The mother of Mr. M. a sprightly old lady, engaged in nursing them, about 10 o'clock at night began to vomit, and died a little after sunrise the next morning. I have learned since, that she had had diarrhoea for some days."

Much as these cases seem at first view, to support the doctrine of contagion, we cannot regard them as conclusive. It does not appear that the individuals first attacked, had been exposed to the atmosphere of those who labored under the malady. They were the friends of each other. They were no doubt terrified and grieved. In common with the whole population on both sides of the river for some distance in the country, they were no doubt under the influence of the remote Epidemic power, and their emotions operate as exciting causes.

It has been said by the advocates of flight—the Yellow Fever is not contagious, and still there is safety in escaping from the cities where it prevails: why, then, should not the people fly from the towns to the country, to avoid the Cholera? The answer is obvious. The poisonous atmosphere which produces Yellow Fever, is local, and, in general limited to cities:—that which causes Cholera, is general, overspreading both town and country, though, in most cases, manifesting itself first in the former. How can we escape the disease by flying from place to place?

We shall conclude this long and desultory article with some account of the Epidemic, as it now prevails in Cincinnati."

*Some account of the Epidemic, as it now prevails in Cincinnati.—By Dr. D. Drake.—See "Western Journal," &c. Page 98, of the Second Hexade, Vol. 1, No. 1, July, 1833.*

"After its subsidence last fall, the city became healthy, except a moderate prevalence of Scarlatina, which was fatal in a number of cases, though the proportion of our juvenile population attacked by it was small. In some instances it was complicated with Cholera, and proved speedily mortal, with symptoms of collapse. The month of March was dry and healthy. April was unusually dry and hot—so that, on the whole, it resembled the month of May; which, in turn, had all the characteristics of the former, being showery and cool throughout, of course with the exception of an occasional hot day. The same remark is applicable to the present month, June, which has been extremely wet, and often so cool as to render fire and winter clothing acceptable. Though there have been much rain and many great and sudden depressions of temperature, there has been less thunder than usual.

On the afternoon of Thursday, the 11th of April, a violent tornado passed over the city and the country north of it, and was followed, as usual, by an exceedingly chilly state of the atmosphere.

On the two succeeding days, we met with several cases of serious diarrhoea and one of cholera morbus, attended with painful cramps of the stomach; which, however, yielded kindly to the usual treatment. But on Sunday morning, the 14th, we saw in consultation, a case of true Epidemic Cholera, which had commenced with copious diarrhoea, the night before, and proved fatal that day. Since then, the disease has prevailed, more or less, in every part of the city; and what is worthy of remark, has had, throughout most of the time, hebdominal exacerbations, much the greatest number of deaths having occurred on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. We had already made this observation ourselves, when our attention was directed to it by an intelligent medical friend, who felt convinced of its accuracy.

As there was nothing in the habits or

pursuits of the people of the city, which could afford an explanation of this fact, we were, like Baron Humboldt, who illustrates the configuration of the mountains and valleys of Mexico, by a reference to the moon, naturally led to direct our attention to that planet, and, upon consulting the almanac, which we hereafter advise all reviewers to keep on their tables with their dictionaries and grammars, we found that all the fulls and changes and quarters of the moon, for the succeeding ten weeks from the 11th of April, occurred on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Of course we sought no further for an explanation of the phenomenon as none more convenient and satisfactory could easily be anticipated.

To what degree the Epidemic was revived by the hurricane of which we have just spoken, we are unable to say. It was more violent to the north of Cincinnati for sixty or seventy miles, than it was here; but it does not appear that the Cholera followed it any where back of the city. How far west or south-west of us it began, or how far it extended to the north-east, we are not informed; but, from its width, its length must have been considerable; and if it influenced the reproduction of the Epidemic at this place, it should have had the same effect elsewhere.

From the time when the Epidemic re-appeared in April, to the present, a great number of our citizens have labored under choleric or diarrhoea—the mild stage of the malignant Cholera. Children, however, have been less affected than adults, and ordinary cases of Cholera Infantum have been rare. The same is true of the Cholera Morbus of adults, which has seldom been met with. In most cases there has been a deficiency of bile. The discharges have been often black at first, but have constantly tended to a transparent or whitish character. Bile has very seldom been ejected by vomiting. In many instances the stomach has been sound and the appetite unimpaired, when great increased secretion and peristaltic action existed in the bowels. A number of cases of dysentery have occurred, and were generally more manageable than cases of Cholera. Their symptoms presented no-

thing uncommon, except that the stomach was more irritable than it usually is in dysentery, and vomiting often supervened. As yet but few cases of intermitting or remitting fever have occurred. But there has, on the whole, been more febrile action in the early stages of Cholera this spring and summer, than was observed last fall, and the functions of the skin have been less impaired. Most of the cases which have fallen under our observation commenced with diarrhoea, sometimes mild and running on without reducing the patient rapidly, but at other times, profuse and prostrating from the first. In general there has been less cramp and spasms this spring than last autumn.

As to exciting causes, they have always been obvious. In one person the diarrhoea appeared to be brought on by eating a dozen unripe pears, and the vomiting immediately followed the loss of a dear friend. It proved fatal. In another, grief alone seemed to be the exciting cause. In another, the emotion raised by the departure of a beloved companion, for residence in a distant State, appeared to awaken the malady. In a patient, convalescent from another disease, it was evidently started by the excessive action of a dose of senna, and indulgence in a hearty dinner, during the operation. We have heard of several cases, in which it was excited by eating cherries immoderately. No instance of its being produced by intoxication has fallen under our observation, and most of those who have been our patients, have been persons of exemplary sobriety and good habits generally. This fact demands a moment's reflection. A delicate nervous temperament is a great predisposer to Cholera. Persons of this temperament are timid and often circumspect to a fault, both as to the quality and quantity of their food and drinks. In reference to the former, they are not likely to be too particular; but it is quite possible to carry a system of abstemiousness too far. Whatever increases the debility and susceptibility of the system, favors the access of the disease. The firmer the health, and the more vigorous the circulation, provided it be equable, the

greater the protection from the Epidemic. Good but regular living, is, then, the proper kind of living, when the Cholera is abroad in the land ; and, as to drinking, it should, as near as possible, be what each individual is accustomed to, under ordinary circumstances :—care being taken, by those who sink their health, character, fortune, and the happiness of their wives and children in coffee houses, not to carry their drinking to intoxication, during the Epidemic. They can indemnify themselves when it has passed away, by getting “dead drunk,” oftener than usual, and thus, in the end make up the sum total of their felicity. As the period for new cider is now approaching, it should be recollected, both in town and country, that no drink will be more likely to excite the disease.

The treatment of the Epidemic this spring, has not varied, materially, from that of the preceding autumn. Every day's observation has impressed us more and more deeply, with the great truth already repeated by us more than once—that *to be successful it must be early*. In its first stages, no disease is more amenable to medicine ; as it progresses, its obstinacy increases in a higher ratio than that of any other malady—thus neglect is death.”

*Remarks on the use of Ice and Ice-water,  
by Professor Drake.*

We quote the following remarks on ice&ice-water. Not from any confidence we have in it. We have heard and read much of the use of this article in Cholera. But we have had no confidence in it as a remedy for that disease, in any stage of the complaint.—The Regular Faculty are tagging round after the Steam Doctors, tearing out the lungs, lights, and livers of the dead, to prove that the steam-bath and warm herb drink produces congestion, engorgement, &c., cramming, stuffing, and bursting these important viscera, but they themselves will fill living and dying with ice and ice-water, and lay cakes of ice on the fair bosom of perishing youth and beauty, regardless of consequences, and, in the omnipotence of their reputation, as learned physicians, slay without remorse, una-

amenable to any one. By the abstraction of external heat from the surface, when it is obviously deficient, is, in our estimation, ludicrous in the extreme. Notwithstanding a warm glow on the surface may frequently be produced by the effusion of cold water, suddenly applied, or by immersion, provided the person be immediately wiped dry, and clad in warm raiment, yet the long-continued local application of cold water, ice, or ice-water, will certainly produce a contrary effect. The previously-existing warmth will become extinct—chilly sensations will ultimately supervene ; local congestion, by its repelling power, may be anticipated, and a long train of fatal circumstances may be expected to be the result. We cannot, with our learned, Professor, “regard ice as a valuable remedy” in Cholera. We believe with him, that “its powers have been greatly over-rated,” yes, and indiscreetly applied, by way of experiment, hap-hazard, as a dernier resort, in desperate cases, when practitioners have been bewildered in their course and knew not what to do. To save appearances, they will often be doing something. If the means used be ever so capricious ; if the patient, by strength of constitution, has happened to survive ; or from any other circumstance connected with his situation, escapes death—then the cake of ice laid on his stomach and bowels, though it may have killed nine, if the tenth has lived, scientific men have drawn the conclusion, that they have found an invaluable remedy. Though, in the cases the Doctor has mentioned, the patients died—yet, in one case, even where death ensued, the Professor says, “it evidently did some service,” but in what respect he has not told us. He concludes by saying, “We have met with no case in which it appeared to do harm.” We will only say, by way of offset, that, having had some experience, by critical observation, “we have met with no case” of Cholera in which it has ultimately “appeared” to have had any curative effect.—The reader shall now be presented with the Doctor's remarks—cheerfully allowing that the intelligent, reflecting, and candid, appreciate the whole at discretion :—

"Ice and iced water have been used much more extensively than before.— They are highly acceptable to choleric patients, but their effects have not been so salutary as Broussais and other physicians of the Continent of Europe, profess to have found them. We have given pellets of ice, repeatedly, to the same patient for 24 hours; but he died at last. We have, also, in a number of cases employed ice externally, especially over the epigastrium and umbilical regions. In one instance, lumps of ice were kept upon those parts for 26 hours, without intermission, during the whole of which time, the skin underneath, was as cold as death, while that of the feet and legs was warm; it was grateful to the patient, and, when removed, the irritability of the stomach increased. It evidently did some service; but the patient ultimately died, not however, in the stage of collapse, but of consecutive fever. On the whole, we regard ice as a valuable remedy, but believe its powers to have been greatly overrated. We have met with no case in which it appeared to do harm."

There may be rare conceptions to general rules. As a general rule, we would caution against the use of ice, inwardly or outwardly. If, in any instance, any one feels confident that material benefits have been derived, we will only say, that we candidly believe that it is at best an exceedingly precarious remedy.

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## THE RECORDER.

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### COLUMBUS,

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SATURDAY, SEPT. 14, 1833.

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### TO OUR BOTANIC FRIENDS.

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We are wanting to purchase a large quantity of Thomsonian Medicine, particularly Lobelia and Lady's Slipper, called Umbil or Nerve-Root, also Kercuma. Lesser quantities of other articles belonging to his system of practice. Some of the more important

articles that have been recommended in the Recorder, not mentioned in the New Guide, we cannot supply without the attention of our friends. Lobelia is scarce in many places this season. Persons taking genuine medicine, particularly the three articles first mentioned to our agents, will be able to dispose of them at a fair price. All our Special Agents are requested to take in such medicine, and to be careful to avoid impositions. See that the medicine be genuine and carefully cured, and that it be kept in such dry situations as not to contract dampness. The Lobelia being scarce, as before observed, we would invite the attention of all our Special Agents to be particular to obtain a good supply.

Some apology is due to our numerous correspondents. Many communications for publication will receive their turn. A multitude of other business will be attended to as far as possible. The sickness that has prevailed from the fourteenth of July to the present day, has necessarily involved us in so much labor and anxiety, that delays have been unavoidable.— We shall endeavor, by renewed exertions, to redeem our time and atone for all our seeming neglect.

Dr. Samuel P. Ament, of Nashville Tenn., and several others of our Special Agents, have received recent supplies of medicine, and can furnish their Botanic customers whenever they may make it convenient to call on them.

In relation to Cholera, we would remark in general—The Botanic Faculty have sustained their course respectably. At the commencement, they engrossed nearly all the business—the press was so great, and the fear of falling into the hands of the Calomel Doctors, so generally prevailed, that many cases were unavoidably delayed, two

three or four hours, until Cholera had run into confirmed Cholera, and the patient past relief: Some died. The doctors raised the shout, and because I did not recover, and a number had died under such untoward circumstances, they, with their prejudiced friends, by a combined effort, endeavored to shake the confidence of the people—Thomsonians remained unshaken, and but few cases afterwards occurred among them. Some, however, of the most violent attacks fell to their lot.—But, among the few they lost, the saved more. For a while, the Regular Faculty, by their continual losses, fully evinced the inefficiency of their practice. But these events transpired unobserved to many, and no one appeared to take an alarm. It was the old story over again. It was but the regular result of regular practice.

The number of deaths, it is believed, have been greater in proportion to the number of the sick than before. They endeavored to cry down the Cholera Syrup, not only through our streets, but their foolish slang found its way into our newspapers, and Editors, as usual, have vented their spleen against the Thomsonian Practice. No where has Cholera Syrup been more extensively used than in Columbus, according to the population. No where has Cholera affected fewer persons in proportion to the number of inhabitants. No where have fewer died in proportion to the number of cases. Among all that have died of Cholera, we challenge them to find, as we have elsewhere remarked, more than a dozen that have ever used our Cholera preventative. Among these, we seriously doubt whether one-half of those used it agreeably to direction. We have found it an excellent medicine. Thousands of others have tested its efficacy. In all quarters of

the United States we can produce ample testimony. Those who are unacquainted with the medicine, and condemn on hearsay, evince the baseness and turpitude of their hearts. Those who are acquainted with the component parts of that valuable medicine, and the mode of preparing it, and attempt to make the ignorant believe it is a dangerous medicine, demonstrate their wickedness and folly, and it would puzzle a philosopher to determine in which they exceed.

If the Cholera Syrup must be condemned, because some who have taken it one time or another, are now among the dead, what would be the fate of Calomel and purgatives, if we admit such a rule of judgment? It would consign them to condign oblivion! There are an hundred who have died of Cholera, west of the rugged heights of the Alleghany, the current season, who have taken Calomel and other purgative medicine, to one who has died under Botanic treatment of any kind. It is presumed that, among the dead, who have died in Columbus, we find three who have taken Calomel in their last sickness, for one that has died who had taken Cholera Syrup before or at the time of their sickness. These are facts that want nothing but a little plain honest common sense to apply to the case in hand, and he that will not be enlightened must wilfully shut his eyes.

Within a few days, the few cases of Cholera treated by Thomsonians, have either assumed a milder form, or been more successfully treated, for such has been the result that we are confident it is sounding a retreat or yielding to Botanic skill.

The Regular Faculty fly, in their practice, to every point of the compass. Calomel, Lancet, Ipecacuanha, ice, in-



wardly and outwardly, beeves' gall, cayenne, emetics, purgatives, stimulants, and sedatives, are all put in requisition. No two among them practice alike! No one practises twice alike! They are all agreed to make war on Thomsonianism, though they are jealous, envious, and superstitious among themselves, yet, in relation to Doctor Thomson and his adherents, wherever they are named, Pilate and Cæsar are made friends. They raise the war-whoop, and in their hearts, consign us to the faggot and the stake.

We stop the Press to announce the melancholy tidings of the death of RUFUS FERRIS, Esq. He had been much fatigued by the sickness that had occurred in Judge Pike's family. Daily attention, night-watching, and unavoidable attention to the pressing concerns of the Company of General Agents, caused him to complain of weariness, though otherwise a hearty man. On Friday, about one or two o'clock, he took stage for home: at 11 o'clock next day we find him 12 miles beyond Mount Vernon. What his premonitory symptoms were, we have not yet learned. His additional fatigue, exposure, and wakefulness on the road, must certainly have operated as exciting causes. It is highly probable that watching, fasting, and riding, through the night, might have provoked an appetite, which, being indulged, might have had a pernicious effect, as we have witnessed in other similar cases. At six o'clock the same evening he died. No medical aid was present, as we have learned, save Judge Pike and his wife, neither of whom, when they left Columbus, were more than merely able to keep their feet. The following letter is all the certain intelligence received on the subject. It was attached to the way-bill:—

*To my Friends in Columbus.*

I have now a tale of sorrow to relate; R. Ferris, Esq. is no more! He expired at 6 o'clock last evening, after an illness of seven hours. I am busily

employed this morning to take home. He requested I should call.

I shall proceed on to the morning at DeWitt's tavern, between Mount Vernon and Loudenville. I have not time to say more. The stage is waiting. My own health, I think, is improving, notwithstanding all that has happened.

Yours, respectfully,

JARVIS PIKE

### PUBLIC NOTICE.

In a letter from Dr. Samuel Thomson to the Senior Editor of the Recorder, dated August 30, 1833, announcing of the Convention of the Free Botanic Society of the United States to commence at Pittsburgh on the second Monday in October of the current year, and expressing his desire of being personally present, observed:—“Please to give timely and repeated notice of the pending meeting in the Recorder. I wish most earnestly that there may be as general attendance as practicable. There is business of special importance to be laid before them, that calls for their particular attention.” Of this we have been surprised and have given repeated notice of the time and place for the meeting of the Convention. Botanic Societies in the United States are hoped, will be universally represented. Individuals, Special Agents, and others who take an interest in the cause, it is hoped, will be in attendance. Thomsonian Infirmaries, those nurseries of benevolence, we wish to hear from them. The communications of Botanic Institutions, of every class, do not make war upon the Thomsonian System, and whose end and aim is to advance Botanic Practice, will as we have frequently suggested, be cordially received and respectfully noted. We highly appreciate whatever may augment the aggregate sum of really useful Botanic knowledge in relation to the removal of disease from mankind. We hope these friendly intimations of our views and feelings, towards the whole Botanic family, will be received in that conciliatory spirit which it is our desire to awaken in every ingenious mind.

T. HERSEY,

Sec. Gen. Cor. of the U. S. Bot. Soc.

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"

"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HEKSEY, *Senior Editor.*

VOL. I ] COLUMBUS, SEPT. 21, 1833. [No. 30.

## HYPOCHONDRIACISM.

The truth of the following remarks of Dr. J. Johnson, will be confirmed by every one who will take the pains to test them by his own experience.—They afford a lesson from which all may profit.

As it is more easy to remove disorders in the beginning, than when they have taken deep root, so it is very important both to the patient and practitioner, to detect the lighter shades of what may go on, in the end, to confirmed hypochondriacism, than which there is not a more intractable malady incident to man. It is fortunate for the sufferer, when unequivocal disorder of the digestive organs is an early feature of the disease; for then his attention is directed to the root of the evil. It is also a sign that *physical* causes are operating deleteriously, and these can always be more readily combatted than moral causes. But when the disorder in the stomach and bowels is not very prominent, or is wanting, and the malady shows its first approaches through the medium of the mind, or of distant sympathies in the body, the real state of the case is seldom ascertained till serious mischief is done. When, therefore, a man finds any alteration in the temper or moral feelings, there being no adequate moral cause, he should suspect some *physical* cause. Let him then narrowly watch the state of these deviations from the natural temper of feelings, after free living and after abstinence, after complicated dishes, and after plain food, after wine and after water. If he does not find an increase or diminution of his mental or corporeal ailments, according as he leans to the one side or to the other of these points of regimen, then I am no observer. Even if the original causes be purely of a moral nature—as, for instance, severe losses in business—still the mental des-

pondency is aggravated by the morbid sensibility of the stomach—and this morbid sensibility is mitigated or exasperated by the quality and quantity of our food and drink. Thus, a man loses, by speculation, a certain sum of money, which makes a considerable impression on his mind, and depresses his spirits. After a while he finds that time, instead of healing the wound which misfortune had inflicted, had increased it; and that what he could look upon with some degree of fortitude in the beginning, is now become such a source of despondency, that it haunts him by day and by night, and is forever uppermost in his thoughts and even in his dreams. He finds, moreover, that some days he can view the misfortune with courage, and spurn the idea of giving way under it, while on other days it presents itself in the most frightful colors, and he seems completely deprived of all fortitude to resist its overwhelming influence. This is a true copy, of which I have seen many originals, during the late commercial distresses, and ruinous speculations. What does it teach! Why, that moral affliction was borne with comparative ease till the digestive organs were impaired through the agency of the mind, when re-action took place, and impaired, in turn, the mental energies. But how are we to account for the fact, that one day the individual will evince fortitude, and the next despair, all the attendant circumstances of the moral evil remaining precisely as they were? It can be clearly accounted for from the occasional irritation of food or drink, exasperating the morbid sensibility of the stomach, and thereby re-acting on the mind. The temporary irritation over, the mind again recovers a degree of its former serenity, till the cause is re-applied. I was led to this solution of the enigma some years ago, by observing that a very aged hypochondriac was

every second day affected with such an exasperation of his melancholy forebodings, that he did nothing but walk about his room, wringing his hands, and, assuring his servants that the hand of death was upon him, and that he could not possibly survive more than a few hours. Under these gloomy impressions, he would refuse food and drink, and, in fact, give himself up for lost. The succeeding sun, however, would find him quite an altered man.—The cloud had broken away, hope was re-kindled, and the appetite for food and drink was indulged *ad libitum*. Next morning all would again be despair, and nothing but death could be thought of. So he went on as regular as light and darkness. But if, on the good day, he would confine himself to a very small portion of food, and the bottle was unopened, the next would be good also.—This, however, was seldom done; for as soon as he felt a respite from his miseries, procured by one day's abstinence, he returned to his usual indulgences, and again irritated his stomach and bowels, and, through them, reproduced the blues in the mind.

[*Journal of Health.*]

## COMMUNICATIONS.

### For the Recorder.

MESSES. EDITORS:—I have witnessed, with painful regret, the diligent and determined efforts made by certain persons who are opposed to, or unacquainted with, the Thomsonian System, to arrest or destroy public confidence in its efficacy, in consequence of the sad mortality that has recently occurred in the family of Horton Howard. It is true that this lamented family have been severely visited and nearly all have been cut off from among the living, and Mr. Howard is among the dead. It is also true that Mr. Howard was the ostensible author of a work purporting to be an "Improved System of Botanic Medicine." This work was closely allied to the Botanic Scheme, but still varying from it in many important particulars. In some of these particular variations, the best informed

Thomsonians have always predicted pernicious results. Doctor Thomson would, in the main, feel quite as indisposed to be repudiated the late Mr. Howard's Improvements, as would be to assume to be a Calomel and Arsenic practitioner of the Regular Faculty. It is unjust to attempt to make him responsible in the one case as in the other. Mr. Howard did not follow Dr. Thomson's prescriptions, but did not prepare, for instance, the Syrup according to the Thomsonian directions. True, he used some of the same articles, omitted some, and added others. The public must be aware of these facts. Such facts, as to those improvements, have been subjects of frequent animadversion in the pages of your Recorder. And therefore, that there has been extraordinary failures that should be a bane to his improvements, is reasonable to endeavor to trace to the whole Botanic System, and particularly on the Thomsonian Practice, on that account?

To ascertain the unreasonableness of such indiscriminate censure, or any censure at all in relation to practice in Mr. Howard's family, an honest and intelligent will look at the circumstances, and, as for ourselves, we conceive that Thomsonians do not feel themselves flattered by such slanders or degraded by their misstatements.

At the time the periodical *Recorder* made its first appearance in the world, Mr. Howard, how long since deceased, may have been in some degree habitually and humanely bent upon to stay its progress. He was frequently engaged with active zeal of doing good among the sick and dying. I think that, amidst all this industry and consequent anxiety and fatigue, he maintained his usual health, until his grandchildren, three in number, were seized with Cholera. They were the children of Harvey D. Little, Esq. and resided under the same roof. They had been previously, complaining of several days of a troublesome debilitating diarrhoea, but had been partially recovered. Unfortunately, they were indulged to eat freely of new Cheese.

which had a very pernicious effect.—They were suddenly and severely indisposed in the night immediately following. Under these circumstances, the approach of dissolution was so insidious, that one of the children, a boy of about three years of age, was, as Mr. Howard personally informed the writer, in a confirmed state of collapse before he saw him or any one of the family was apprised of the danger, or any special alarm was taken. He died in a few hours. One other child, a little girl, a few years older, was partially relieved, but declined a day or two and died. Another of the children, the youngest of the three, recovered.

About this time Mr. Howard and Mr. Little were both taken; the latter was more imminently dangerous and came near to death at that time.—Shortly, however, they were both relieved, and Mr. Howard recovered sufficiently to walk about. Mr. Little did not again rise from his bed. While these two were sick, Mrs. Little was taken, and, for many days, was dangerously ill. During the illness of Mr. Little, Mr. Howard regained considerable strength and was able to be about the house. Previously, however, his daughter Ann was taken with the premonitory symptoms of Cholera, which, by timely aid, were checked. At this time, as any reasonable man would readily suppose, the whole family were worn down with night-watching, anxiety and excessive fatigue. Here it should be particularly noted that, on the morning of that day, she had, by the urgent recommendation of her father, eaten a large quantity of raw wheaten bran. The object designed to be effected by this means, was to overcome constipation, which had succeeded her former indisposition. Mr. Howard had imbibed a strong predilection, from some experience he had of its efficacy in case of dyspepsia occasioned by a long established costive habit. From certain observations, he was led to infer that the raw bran was a corrector of morbid action of the bowels. Nothing could have been more foreign from any thing that can be found in the Thomsonian Practice. Dr. Thomson never recommends that any thing should be taken into the stomach that

is not nutritious and directly calculated to sustain the vital principle.

A short time after the liberal use of the raw bran, as her father had prescribed, Miss Ann was taken with a profuse diarrhoea, but probably not fully apprised of her danger, she did not immediately give any alarm. When it was discovered that she had relapsed into a rapidly advancing Cholera, every effort was made for relief, in the use of means that had relieved many others, but their utmost endeavors were unavailing. She sunk rapidly and died the same day. She was a young lady of amiable disposition and distinguished accomplishments, and highly esteemed by a wide circle of respectable acquaintances.

Mr. Howard remained greatly enfeebled by disease; was sorely depressed with the heavy burthen of his grief. The flower of his family, the child of his peculiar affection, was consigned to an untimely grave. Ann perhaps was not in reality more beloved than his other children, but she was his only unmarried daughter, was affectionately devoted in her attachments to her father. By every laudable means in her power, she endeavored to render her life useful to him, and exulted in any opportunity to contribute to his happiness.

To say that he fondly doted a child like her, is saying but very little. Parental anguish, under such complicated circumstances of augmented grief, may be more easily conceived than expressed. Language is too barren to attempt description. And, the desire of his eyes, young, affectionate and amiable, was torn from his paternal bosom, and gone down to the pale nations of the dead. She was gone! irrecoverably gone! By the side of her cold and lifeless remains rested two lovely babes, who but a few days before prattled in the hey-day of childish glee around his knees. Add to this the sorrowful circumstances that his son-in-law, Mr. Little, remained so extremely ill that his life was despaired of, and another amiable daughter, Mrs. Little, was dangerously sick! What a weight of human woe! No wonder that the old man, full of days, worn down with a long grievous, train of complicated in-

firmities, particularly intestinal derangements, that enter largely into the history of his domestic life, no wonder that such an one should become an easy prey to the destroyer. Comparatively few reach to his advanced years.

This old man, weak and feeble at best, reduced by disease, weighed down with grief, fatigue, anxiety, watching, and tender care, relapsed. As soon as he was attacked, he was fully aware of his situation and gave himself up a lost Cholera victim! Without, apparently a thought of surviving, he addressed himself to the more important concern of being prepared to die! Notwithstanding the assiduous attention of friends and neighbors, and the industrious zealous efforts of his physicians to save him, in despite of all remedial aid, he sunk without relief and died! Here let it be specially noted that as he had recommended the wheat bran to his daughter, he had made a liberal use of the same means himself. From the coincidence of these circumstances, and from the nature of the case, no doubt remains on the mind of the writer of this communication, but that the bran-eating experiment, in both cases, operated as an exciting cause of that fatal form of disease that consigned them both to the grave. There were also other causes abundantly sufficient to induce the disease, and here we need not urge the old, decayed state of the logs in the log building where he dwelt, which, after a period of more than twenty years, must have been in a situation unfavorable to health. At the period of Mr. Howard's sickness, it was with the greatest difficulty, by the most unremitted attentions and incessant exertions, that Mr. and Mrs. Little could be kept alive. At that critical period, Mrs. Little was removed to a neighbor's house, and Mrs. Howard, who, so far, apparently had been miraculously sustained, accompanied her. But, worn down with complicated afflictions, overwhelmed with grief and incessant anxiety and fatigue, alarmed at the desolating strides of the prevailing pestilence, she began to droop. She was soon after attacked with Cholera, and, like her deceased husband, obtained only a temporary relief. Thus, five of this family were gone, but, thanks to

kind heaven, by whose Providence Mrs. Little, a surviving daughter, was, by this time, beginning to recover. But, melancholy to relate, Mr. Little gradually declined, and soon followed the other five.

During the whole term of Mr. Little's illness, alternate hope and fear preponderated in the breasts of his anxious friends, but relapse succeeded relapse, and sunk him deeper and deeper into death! Had his illness occurred at a time when all the other members of the family were well, it is highly probable he would have survived.—But his constitution was feeble at the best, and, under such unfavorable and distressful circumstances, attacked with such varied forms of disease, and oppressed with such a complicated load of afflictions, what rational mind can wonder at the disastrous result?

During this almost unparalleled scene of mourning and distress, a son, a young man, came home from College, and participated in the afflictions, trials, and dangers of the family. He too was several times attacked with premonitory symptoms of the epidemic, but was mercifully spared, and, soon after the decease of Mr. Little, he, with Mrs. Little and her babe, the only surviving members of a family of nine persons, left Columbus. They retired under the care and protection of kind and anxious friends and relatives.

Now, Messrs. Editors, I appeal to you, and to all who may become acquainted with the lamentable facts, if there are not sufficient ways and means to account for this extraordinary mortality, without resorting to the vulgar and irrational expedient of, attributing it to the failure of the remedies prescribed?

No Thomsonian has ever ventured to assert that there was more than a remote chance of success for a collapsed case of Cholera, especially in a case of relapse. These are the most hopeless cases for the exertion of human skill.

Here we will just note, that the two children were far gone, as already observed, before any alarm was excited in the family. Their attack came on in the night, and may truly be said to have come on in a most insidious manner.



no one being fully apprised of their dangerous condition until it was utterly too late to afford substantial relief. Mr. Howard, and Mr. Little, and Miss Ann, like the two children, died in consequence of relapses.

Mrs. Howard sunk like a leaf seared and scathed by an autumnal frost.

Let it be distinctly recollected by all, but especially by those who wantonly strive to annihilate our confidence in Botanic Medicine, that *three* out of the nine persons attacked in that family, were saved, and in very few places have the Regular Faculty been able, in *general practice*, to boast of greater success than has followed the Botanic Practice in this almost unprecedented instance of affliction.

Even now are our eyes turned to witness the calamity that has befallen the family of Judge Rowan, of Kentucky, as well as many other families which might be named. The mortality has been greater, the affliction more appalling, than the destruction of the Howard family, yet we hear no murmurings concerning the practice, of no confidence lost in the means employed. Occasionally circumstances are so combined that the usual order of nature is apparently deranged, as though her laws were reversed.

Every Physician is apprized of the difficulty attending the cure of disease where the mind is deeply depressed, particularly where the sinking patient loses all hope of recovery and yields himself up to despair. Fright, fatigue, and previous debility, add much to the difficulties in restoring health to the sick, but in no form of disease, ever known, are such circumstances more fatal than in the epidemic Cholera.

From the view here taken of the subject, it is candidly inferred that when Thomsonians contend that their system should not be blamed for the loss of so many lives in the family of Mr. Howard, that they stand on tenable ground. They will by no means pretend to say that they could, under such an unpropitious train of circumstances, have produced a more favorable result.

They insist, however, that they have seen astonishing cures by Thomsonians in this metropolis, during the present rage of the pestilence. They have

uniformly found that the smallest deviations from Thomsonian principles and prescriptions, according to the strictest observations the writer has been able to make, has, upon the whole, proved ultimately pernicious.

Let no one who has presumed to mark out for himself a course of practice, cast the sin of its failure on Dr. Thomson's shoulder. In Cholera, as in all other forms of disease, ninety-nine hundredths of the blame which the system has ever received, has been occasioned by the neglect, or substituted inventions of those who have professed to follow it. We have seen the results of wilful presumption in varying from the plain and simple rules of Dr. Thomson, to suit the ideas of aspiring individuals, to an extent that satisfies the mind that such innovations are commonly useless and often dangerous.

In conclusion, we will mention the case of one other family in this town, that suffered almost as severely as Mr. Howards. The allusion is to Mr. White's.

This calamity is also huddled off on Dr. Thomson's System, and yet strange to tell, we know not of any Thomsonian who saw any one of the family during their sickness. If any one casually obtained a glance at any one of them, one thing is certain, no Thomsonian was present to prescribe or administer. If there was any Botanic Physician that ever saw them, they were of another school. But the fact is simply this, that Dr. Aul, a Regular Physician, was the only person that prescribed or administered medicine to any one in that devoted family. If there be any blame or fame to be attached to the practice, it is his prerogative to sustain or claim the whole.

It must not be concealed that Mr. White was a man of intemperate habits, and it is probable that he used Cholera Syrup to excess, regardless of the minute and special directions printed and distributed among the people.—What liquor, in addition to the small quantity of spirit to preserve the syrup he was in the habit of using, we pretend not to say, or that he abused the preventative, we pretend not to deny. That his intemperate habits and a number of other circumstances of indiscre-

tion that might be named, operated as exciting causes, is even possible. To blame the Syrup, or its prescribers, on the account of any man's abusing the remedy, is preposterous in the extreme. Some have seized this circumstance and basely and wickedly censure the Cholera Syrup as the occasion of a great proportion of the sickness and deaths among us—but, from the best information the writer can obtain from the most authentic sources, he challenges the Faculty and all their coadjutors, among the multitude who have perished here, to find a dozen among the dead who ever used the Thomsonian Cholera Syrup as a preventative.

This is the more remarkable as a matter of fact, from the circumstance, that so many of our citizens have used it. That fewer have been sick, and fewer among the sick have died, than in any other western town or city of equal population. Let the candid and discerning put these facts together, and make their inference as sound discretion may dictate.

These facts are respectfully submitted to the consideration of the reader. In the minutiae of our statements, some trivial error may possibly have occurred—but what is here stated is substantially correct, and challenges the fell spirit of wanton contradiction to deny. Should there be any correction desired by the immediate friends or relatives of the deceased, such correction, if reasonable, will cheerfully be accredited, as the writer may have privilege, through the pages of the Recorder, so notorious for its devotedness to truth.

AN OBSERVER.

Columbus, Sept. 1, 1833.

**To preserve Beans and Peas.**—Peas and beans may be preserved through the winter by scalding them in a strong syrup of sugar and drying them; after which they should be put in a bottle and corked close. If each part of this process is conducted with care, it will be found, when they are cooked, that they have lost but little of their flavor, and that they will form a great addition to our vegetable dishes during winter.

[Genesee Farmer.]

## THE BLACK DEATH.

This book, with such a fearful title, is translated from the German by the celebrated Hecker, by Dr. L. and gives an account of the rage that fear of pestilence which reigned in Italy and throughout Europe, at the time of the *cazio*. A more interesting work we have never met with.

[Albany.]

In many places it was rumored that plague patients were buried alive; and sometimes happen through the less alarm and indecent haste; the horror of the distress depicted every where increased. In the church-yards were found thousands of corpses were thrown into eleven great pits; and the same more or less exactly, he speaks in respect to all the large cities. In ceremonies, the last consolation of survivors, were every where scarce.

In Germany, according to reliable calculation, there were killed only 1,214,434 inhabitants; but the country, however, was more severely visited: Italy, on the contrary, was most severely visited. It is said to have lost half its inhabitants; and an account is rendered credible of immense losses of individual provinces: for in Sardinia as late as according to the account of the distinguished Florentine, John Villani, was himself carried off by the Black Plague, scarcely a third part of the population remained alive; and related of the Venetians, that the aged ships at a high rate retreated to the islands; so that after the plague had carried off three-fourths of her inhabitants, that proud city was left alone and desolate. In Padua, after the cessation of the Plague, two-thirds of the inhabitants were wanting; and, in Florence, it was prohibited to publish the numbers of the dead, and to toll the bells at their funerals, in order that they might not abandon themselves to despair.

We have more exact accounts of England; most of the great cities suffered incredible losses: above all, Yarmouth, in which 7052 died; Bristol, Oxford, Norwich, Leicester, York, and

London, where, in one burial ground alone, there were interred upwards of 10,000 corpses, arranged in layers in large pits. It is said that, in the whole country, scarcely a tenth part remained alive; but this estimate is evidently too high. Smaller losses were sufficient to cause those convulsions, whose consequences were felt for some centuries, in a false impulse given to civil life, and whose indirect influence, unknown to the English, has, perhaps, extended even to modern times.

The changes which occurred about this period in the north of Europe, are sufficiently memorable to claim a few moments' attention. In Sweden, two princes died—Haken and Kaur, half brothers to king Magnus; and in West-gothland alone, 466 priests. The inhabitants of Iceland and Greenland found in the coldness of their inhospitable climate, no protection against the southern enemy who had penetrated to them from happier countries. The Plague caused great havoc among them. Nature made no allowance for their constant warfare with the elements, and the parsimony with which she had meted out to them the enjoyments of life. In Denmark and Norway, however, people were so occupied with their own miseries, that the accustomed voyages to Greenland ceased. Towering ice-bergs formed at the same time on the coast of Greenland, in consequence of the earth's organism; and no mortal, from that time forward, has ever seen that shore or its inhabitants.

It has been observed above, that in Russia, the Black Plague did not break out until 1351, after it had already passed through the south and north of Europe. In this country, also, the mortality was extraordinarily great; and the same scenes of affliction and despair were exhibited as had occurred in those nations which had already passed the ordeal. The same mode of burial—the same horrible certainty of death—the same torpor and depression of spirits. The wealthy abandoned their treasures, and gave their villages and estates to the churches and monasteries; this being, according to the notions of the age, the surest way of securing the favor of heaven, and the forgiveness of

past sins. In Russia, too, the voice of nature was silenced by fear and horror. In the hour of danger, fathers and mothers deserted their children and children their parents.

Of all the estimates of the number of lives lost in Europe, the most probable is, that altogether, a fourth part of the inhabitants were carried off. Now, if Europe at present contain 210,000,000 inhabitants, the population, not to take a higher estimate, which might easily be justified, amounting to at least 105,000,000 in the sixth century.

It may, therefore, be assumed, without exaggeration, that Europe lost, during the Black Death, 25,000,000 of inhabitants.

### WILLIAM WILBERFORCE.

William Wilberforce, whose death is announced in the papers lately received from London, was a truly great and good man. He was born in 1759, and entered Parliament in 1780. He was of a good family, and possessed an ample fortune, but never yielded to any of the temptations peculiar to rank and wealth. He was a truly religious man, and his conduct did honor to his faith. He is principally known by his successful exertions in the abolition of the Slave Trade. His first motion upon that subject was brought before Parliament in 1787. The opposition which it excited, both in and out of the House, seems almost incredible. Petitions poured in against it from all quarters, and though it was supported by Mr. Pitt, it was rejected by a large majority.

Mr. Wilberforce and his friends continued their efforts in behalf of oppressed humanity, undiscouraged by repeated repulses. Notwithstanding, however, the manifest justice of the measures they advocated, and the horrors of the traffic itself, and although they had the powerful support of both Pitt and Fox, it was not until 1807 that a motion introduced by Mr. Fox, that the House of Commons should declare the Slave Trade inconsistent with justice, humanity, and sound policy, and should immediately take measures for its abolition, prevailed. Twenty years were occupied in convincing the legislators

of Great Britain, that it was unlawful to deal in human flesh. In bringing about this happy and glorious result, Mr. Wilberforce was mainly influential and has associated his name imperishably with the triumphs of humanity and benevolence.

Mr. Wilberforce's whole life has been consistent with this portion of it. The religious and charitable institutions of his country have found in him an efficient supporter and a liberal friend.—His public and private life has been spotless—even his enemies never impugned the purity of his motives, or doubted his disinterested and elevated views. His writings have been full of Christian spirit, and the most sublime morality. The fame that he has acquired is a truly enviable one, arising from exertions of the highest benevolence, the most comprehensive charity, a fervor of moral feeling, a steadiness of moral principle, and an energy of purpose in behalf of the truth, that nothing could damp. How infinitely superior it is, not only to the warrior's laurels, but even to the statesman's worthier honors. With these last are associated recollections of party strife, of bitter contentions, a steeling of the heart against emotions, and they are too often gained by a sacrifice of that high principle which "feels a stain like a wound." But in the glory of such a man as Wilberforce, there is no alloy. No one can look upon it with any thing but unmixed admiration. It is a triumph of virtue, of religion, and of moral courage. His life is no less encouraging than beautiful. The influence of such a man never dies. He communicates an electric impulse to his age. Thousands have been kindled from the fires that burned in his breast. The good man lives in his works, in his examples, and in his influences—when his own bright orb is sunk to rest, the world is still illumined with the "bright track of his fiery car."

[*Boston Merc. Journal.*]

The Lexington Observer mentions a report that 30 convicts had died of Cholera in the Kentucky Penitentiary on the 27th July.

## HISTORY OF THE FISHES OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The following extracts are from a very interesting work, entitled "Natural History of the Fishes of Massachusetts, embracing a practical essay on Angling—By Jerome V. C. S. M. D." recently published in Boston by Allen & Ticknor.

### IMPORTANCE OF THE FISHES

"It was an opinion of Pliny, of nature's great and wonderful power more demonstrated in the sea than in the land." This power is displayed in forms of exquisite beauty and of grandeur. It is exhibited on the surface of the wave and in the unexplored recesses of the deep. It appears in an eminent degree, among the myriads of tribes which traverse the ocean, with velocity far surpassing that of human power, equalling those of the tenants of the air. Science has not so far penetrated this field of agreeable research, as to induce us to suppose that we have any thing like a complete history of the watery tribes. We have indeed new names, but with their increase we have not a corresponding knowledge of the habits and characters of the marine inhabitants. Linnaeus has given names to upwards of a hundred species: yet it is probable that the recesses of the fathomless ocean contain a great variety of tribes not seen by man. Imagination has frequently been busy in tenantry these unexplored regions with unreal creations, and superstition has exercised her inventive faculties to impose belief on their existence, on credulous and inexperienced minds.

"It would afford a rich gratification to the inquiring mind, to discover the singular adaptation to its state of existence, which is to be found in this class of animated nature, and to witness the order and beauty which here, as well as elsewhere, is stamped upon the work of the Almighty.

"It is an interesting fact to us, that had it not been for the treasures of the sea, the pilgrim fathers of New England would have probably perished by famine. The pious Brewster and his

associates lived months almost entirely upon fish, and his daily thanks were given, that he and his associates could suck of the abundance of the seas, and the treasures hid in the sands.' The infant colony of Plymouth was nourished into strength and power by the trade of fishing. It was, for a long series of years, one of the principal sources from whence they derived sustenance for themselves, and articles of traffic, in exchange for which they obtained commodities necessary for their comfort and protection. It is due to that noble race of natives, who were afterwards almost entirely swept from New England by pestilence and war, to state, that to them were our fathers indebted for their first knowledge of the manner of taking fish, as well as of the rudiments of Indian agriculture.

"Some of the uses to which the productions of the sea may be applied, and which are not adverted to in the preceding sketch, appear by the following extract, which originally appeared in the Barnstable Journal:

"The cattle of Provincetown feed upon fish with apparently as good relish as upon the best kinds of fodder.—It is said that some cows, kept there several years, will, when grain and fish are placed before them at the same time, prefer the latter, eating the whole of the fish before they touch the grain. Like one of old, we were rather incredulous on this subject, till we had the evidence of ocular demonstration. We have seen the cows at that place boldly enter the surf, in pursuit of the offals thrown from the fish-boats on the shore, and when obtained, masticate and swallow every part except the hardest bones. A Provincetown cow will dissect the head of a fish with wonderful celerity. She places one foot upon a part of it, and with her teeth tears off the skin and gristly parts, and in a few moments nothing is left but the bones.

"The inhabitants of Princetown are not the only people who feed their cattle upon fish. The nations of the Comandiel coast, as well as in other parts of the east, practise feeding their flocks and herds with fish. The celebrated traveller, Ibn Batuta, who visit-

ed Zafar, the most easterly city in Yemen, in the early part of the fourteenth century, says that the inhabitants of that city carried on a great trade in horses in India, and at that period fed their flocks and herds with fish, a practice which, he says, he had no where else observed."

#### AGE OF FISHES.

"Perhaps there is no subject on which the naturalist has labored with less success, than in trying to ascertain the age to which fishes attain. Admitting that an individual of any species were undisturbed by enemies, or unmolested by its own kindred, and quietly enjoying a circumscribed body of water, amply supplied with appropriate food, there is no reason for doubting that it would live for many centuries.—We know of no limits to their longevity, nor can we suppose that the internal machinery would wear itself out, so long as the digestive organs were properly excited.

"But the time must ultimately arrive when death will terminate their existence; though admirably constructed for uncommonly long life, they are not, nor can they be exempted from the operation of the law, which, to intelligent beings, is contemplated with the deepest feelings of awe and solemnity.

"Pike and carp, in artificial ponds, have been repeatedly found, with gold rings in their fins, and other kinds of labels, on which were also found dates, that proved conclusively, that one hundred years had elapsed since the inscription was made.

"Gesner speaks of a pike that was known to be two hundred and sixty-seven years old. It is affirmed by some of the French writers, that several pike are in a pond which formerly belonged to the Duke of Orleans, father of the present King, so very aged, that their original complexion is completely lost; they have become a dingy hue, and actually give the spectator the idea of extreme old age.

"Cartilaginous fishes have still a greater prospect of living to an advanced period. Instead of bones, as previously remarked, their skeletons are elastic, having but a small portion of



earthy matter in them. As the vessels secrete but little ossific matter, they do not become rigid, as in the land animal—the heart is in no danger of being converted into bone—indeed, we do not know why many of them might not live and continue to grow for a thousand years.

“It was at one time thought that the circles discoverable on the ends of the vertebræ of the osseous tribes, indicated the age—as the rings on the extremity of a log marked the years of the growth of the tree. These are, unfortunately, no guides; and we, therefore, regret that we know of no mode, at the present day, of solving a problem of the highest interest to the curious. Of the marine fishes, the sharks, unquestionably, reach a truly patriarchal age.”

#### SLEEP.

“Exposed, as these animals must necessarily be, to the voracious jaws of millions of belligerent, as well as hungry associates, it would seem hardly possible that they should find a safe opportunity for this kind of rest, however much they might at any period require it. Again, being without eyelids, they would be regarded, at first thought, as organized to require no suspension of the powers of volition. Impossible as it is to speak with certainty on this point, we are fully persuaded that they not only require sleep, but that they also find safe and convenient times to enjoy that sort of repose. Gold-fishes, in vases, repose regularly through the night, after the lights have been extinguished. This is inferred from their remaining precisely in one position, six or eight hours at a time.”

#### SHARKS.

“The white shark cannot be said to be very common on this coast; vessels, in approaching the land, occasionally discover one of these huge devourers, gently gliding through the water, in wake of the rudder. Usually the color is a light ash, hence its name, though it is by no means always of that shade.—On the back, as with nearly all fishes, the skin is quite dark; the tail has three lobes, teeth exceedingly numerous, and

the body, when fully grown, from ten to thirty feet long. In tropical climates, however, it attains its greatest size. Fossil teeth of a shark, to a family the one under consideration, are found at Malta, measuring four and a half inches from the point to the base, and six inches from the point to the angle. All the fossil bones of the antediluvian races, which have been discovered, show that the primitive animals were of far greater magnitude than those of the present time. Perhaps there is no subject of deeper interest to the naturalist, than this curious fact, sustained by the exhibition of several skeletons, in the cabinet of this country and Europe. These prove conclusively that those which preceded the present occupants of the soil were truly gigantic. The perfect bones of a shark, sixty feet in length; the teeth, skulls, and vertebræ of the mastodon, as well as some others, will ever remain objects of wonder and astonishment.—Were these moving mountains of flesh proportioned to the products of our earth? and if so, and they were permitted to roam over the globe, what physical change in the constitution of the world rendered it necessary to drive entire species utterly from existence, by a sudden and terrible destruction?

“At the pearl fisheries of South America, where white sharks are numerous, visiting the mighty canoes, the rocks, the water being so shallow, a small object may be seen at considerable distance, the divers, familiar with the character of the monsters, in their descents for the oyster, are obliged to go armed in self-defence. For this purpose, some carry a long sharp knife. As the shark's mouth is placed somewhat under the head, he endeavors to get over his intended victim, and if he discovers no disposition in the Indian to move, gently settles down over him with his horrible mouth widely extended. With the coolness of a philosopher, the instant he is near enough to be reached, the diver plunges his knife into his vitals. Another method which is practised is, for the diver to carry down with him four or five hard wood sticks, about two feet long, sharpened at both ends. In case he is likely to be

urked in his search for the oyster, the visit of this kind of sharks, he is one of the sticks between his, as he is in the act of closing them. He props them asunder, and the force with which they are brought to act on the stick, securely pins both ends into the bones, and away he goes, without the possibility of a remedy. Instances have been known of an Indian, who was sharply set upon, that he gave away ice sticks in succession, before quitting his dangerous post.

"A young girl, a native of the Marquesas islands, contrived to steal a bar of iron from the deck of a Boston vessel, waiting for a cargo of sandal wood. She swam under water for a considerable distance before coming up for breath, but the moment she was seen with the bar on her shoulder she was pursued, and just as the man in the bow raised his bar to strike her, she plunged a second time—the boats pursued the track, but when she again arose to the surface, still holding the iron, a 'mighty white shark' swallowed her at one effort."

#### STURGEON.

"As sundry persons were employed in painting the hull of the schooner *Exact*, then lying at Hartford, they were suddenly interrupted in their labor by an abrupt and uncereimonious visit from one of the inhabitants of the river. They were standing in a scow, which was drawn alongside the schooner, surrounded with their paint-pots, and busily plying their brushes, when a sturgeon, about seven feet long and three feet in circumference, making his way between the scow and the schooner, where there was just room enough to afford a passage, dashed in amongst the astonished painters, overturned the pots, mixed their various contents in one mass, and, having thus formed a new combination of colors, took the business into his own hands. Substituting his tail for a brush, he commenced operations on a large scale, and, as he flounced about in his new quarters, scattered the paint in every direction, spreading it over the side of the vessel and scow, and not omitting to bestow a liberal coat on the painters themselves.

He was not long permitted, however, to display his skill in his new line of business, for the painters, not relishing this species of monopoly, commenced a united assault on their new competitor, and despatched him without mercy.

"In English law, the sturgeon is still considered as exclusively belonging to the King, who is also entitled by an ancient, grave, parliamentary concession, to all whales which may be cast on the sea-shore of the realm, to be equally divided between his majesty and his royal spouse—the head, as the most noble part, being for the King, and the tail for the Queen; out of which she was to be supplied with whalebone for making her stays. This was particularly an unfortunate division for her majesty, as the whole of the article in question is found in the jaws."

#### HERRING.

"The herring of this country, carefully preserved, is no wise inferior to those of other countries. They are caught in variously constructed nets, in most of the rivers and fresh water streams, which are so connected with the sea that the tide water sets several miles up their channels.

"This tribe of fishes so far as regards number, if we credit the assertions of writers, very much exceeds all others put together. In the northern seas, inaccessible to many other beings, they have an oceanic metropolis of their own where they multiply beyond all human computation.

"Nature seems to have created them expressly to become the food of the many monsters of the deep; as bread is the staff of life for man, so are herring the food on which the unnumbered creatures of the sea mainly depend.

"Herring are certainly anadromous, though their migrations have been over-rated. Their taking, it is said, the regular circuit of the sea, gives an additional interest to their history. One immense army leaves the polar regions, in the spring, equalling in extent the whole surface of Great Britain.

"As they advance, squadrons begin to separate from the main body; these average from four to six miles in breadth, and in length cannot be mea-

sured by the eye. An astonishing representation arrives at the Shetland Islands in June. By September, England, Ireland, and Scotland are surrounded by them. From these parts, the forces move south-west, cross the Atlantic, and make their appearance on the coast of Georgia about the last of January; detachments then begin to move eastward, till, ultimately, the whole North American seaboard is lined with them.

"This fish, variously prepared, has been esteemed as an article of food, from the remotest antiquity. Holland, particularly, was the country in which they most excelled in this fishery.—Many years since, it was supposed that rising of one hundred and fifty thousand persons were devoted to the trade of taking and curing of herring."

### HORRORS OF WAR.

In the hospitals of Wilna, there were about 17,000 dead and dying, frozen and freezing. The bodies of the former, broken up, served to stop the cavities in the windows, floors, and walls; but in some of the passages of the great convent, above 1,500 bodies were piled up transversely like pigs of lead or iron. When those were finally removed on sledges to be buried, the most extraordinary figures were presented by the variety of their attitudes: for none seemed to have been frozen in a composed state; each was fixed in the last action of life—in the last direction given to his limbs; even the eyes retained the last expression either of anger, pain, or entreaty. In the roads, men were gathered around the burning ruins of cottages which a mad spirit of destruction had fired, picking and eating the burnt bodies of their fellow men; while thousands of horses were moaning in agony, with their flesh mangled and hacked, to satisfy the cravings of a hunger that knew no pity. Such were some of the calamities which followed the retreat of the French army from Moscow.

*Warning to Bachelors.*—Dr. Spurzheim, the great phrenologist once gave it as his opinion, that *celibacy* is often the cause of insanity and suicide.

## THE RECORDER.

### COLUMBUS,

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21, 1844

### SPIRIT OF OPPOSITION.

Since the fetters of legal restriction have been removed from the Thomsonian Practice in Ohio, the Regular Faculty have doubled their efforts to oppose us. Men disunited in sentiments and feelings, in almost every other respect, have determined, as far as possible, that every sentiment, feeling and interest, shall be met in one general, common, all-absorbing passion of malignity and persecution. Among them and their adherents there is a determined effort to change the face of Thomsonianism to Howard's New Scheme of Reformation. Mr. Howard published several volumes in professed opposition to Dr. Thomson—introduced new forms of medicine, for which he obtained several patents. He revised Thomson's prescriptions, and recommended his own as superior, which he substituted as far preferable. The title of his book is, "an improved system of Botanic medicine, founded on correct physiological principles."

He has boasted of his "New Free" and contended that he had left "Dr. Thomson's rights and privileges untouched." We do not admit this latter statement, but it is notorious that he introduced many innovations, and presented a mutilated kind of practice, receding from Thomsonian simplicity on the one hand, and approximating the complicated prescriptions of the old school on the other, vacillating between the two. We wish to tread lightly on the ashes of the dead. But the malignant triumph, the fiend-like satisfaction that animates the feelings of the Faculty and their coadjutors, or a certain set of interested individuals, at the disastrous fall of Mr. Howard's family, is such, that we are compelled, through their insidious malevolence, to advert to facts, that we would willingly consign to oblivion. A detail of the examing

es and untoward circumstances, relation to the course of the epidemic that family is already before the c. The facts published will be satisfactory to the candid; with the medical opinions of the captious and ming, we shall not indulge any concern.

Any thing is to be accounted blame in the practice in the Howard family this is not the place to deal out ensure. We feel more disposed to turn with those who mourn. He attended by physicians of his own. Thomson nor Thomsonians had the management of a single case. — In our own practice, had it been used in those obstinate cases, might have saved them. Some have died of our most active exertions. With the disease has begun, as Magendie observed, where other diseases terminate, that is in death. We believe, and are sure, notwithstanding all surmisings, machinations, and bearings, that have been so industriously propagated, as far as our own observations have extended, that the scrupulous, rigid, undeviating adherence to Dr. Thomson's mode of treatment in Cholera has been far more successful than any other. This sentiment, we are confident, on mature and impartial investigation, will admit of no most unequivocal demonstration. — The effluence of the ridicule and calumny by the combined efforts of the little of street-yarn spinners, letterers, and anonymous newspaper papaphists, Thomsonians maintain a steady and rational confidence in their aim, and feel that confidence to be sustained by facts, from which their arguments cannot escape nor successful appeal.

The Regular Faculty wish to sustain the reputation of their practice, by failing to unfortunate results, we would invite them to look into the families of the Hon. John Rowan and Hon. M. Johnson, of Ky., and the five dred bodies that have been committed to the grave in the little city of Kingston, during the ravages of the pestilence, immediately under the aid and mercurial protection of the Esquians of Transylvania University. "facts are stubborn things."

## BAD NEWS.

We are sorry to be compelled to say, that, notwithstanding the polite and reasonable attention of many of our respectable correspondents, who kindly consider the extent and burthen that must devolve on us by a contrary course, never fail, when writing on their own business, to exonerate us from any tax for postage. Those who write several times, on some trifling concern, imposing 12½ or 25 cents postage on us from whom they are wishing to obtain some favor, cannot be overburthened with a sense of propriety. We are not now disposed to give the names of certain individuals to the public, as having played a heavy game upon us this way. Unwilling to suspect the motives of professed friends, who have, in many instances, laid their hand heavily upon us, we exercise our minds to forbearance, to all reasonable bounds, but any thing like a willing or intentional imposition on our good nature and general liberality, is past endurance. If in making these declarations, any of our friends feel themselves too severely censured, they must candidly and honestly consider that they have inflicted the first wound.

## TO THE NEGLECTED.

A multitude of letters remain unanswered. This position of our business has been unavoidable. Since the sickness has begun to subside, we are turning our attention to our correspondents with increasing diligence. Every individual shall be attended to as punctually as practicable. There has not been in any case a wilful neglect.

In forwarding the Recorder, if any failures should happen on our part, it will be sheer accident. Any back numbers will be forwarded, to any reasona-

ble extent, where we shall be certified that, by any fault of ours, any refuse numbers may have been forwarded to any, or through any negligence or inattention of ours in wrapping them, they may have sustained such injury as to unfit them for binding. We are willing to fulfil all our engagements with our subscribers, to the utmost of our abilities, and to rectify mistakes as far as possible, consistent with common justice.

Some communications for the Recorder are purposely neglected, on account of their peculiar excellency.—Intending to improve the external appearance of our second volume, by better paper, new type, and improvement in the mechanical skill and labor to be expended upon it, we have thought it would be a tribute of higher respect to the intrinsic merits of some of these productions, to defer their publication, to grace the more polished pages of our ensuing labors. In some cases, the nature of the communications received, will not reasonably admit of such delay; in this also we hope to be excused.

### PUBLIC NOTICE.

In a letter from Dr. Samuel Thomson to the Senior Editor of the Recorder, dated August 30, 1833, speaking of the Convention of the Friendly Botanic Society of the United States, to commence at Pittsburgh on the second Monday in October of the current year, and expressing his design of being personally present, observes—“Please to give timely and repeated notice of the pending meeting in the Recorder. I wish most earnestly that there may be as general attendance as practicable. There is business of special importance to be laid before them, that calls for their particular attention.” Of this we have been fully apprised and have given repeated notice of the time and place for the meeting of the Convention. Botanic Branch Societies in the United States, it is hoped, will be universally represented. Individuals, Special Agents, and others who take an interest in the cause, it is hoped, will be in attendance. Thom-

sonian Infirmaries, those nursing-benovolence, we wish to benefit them. The communications of Botanic Institutions, of every class, do not make war upon the Thomsonian System, and whose end and aim is to advance Botanic Practice, we have frequently suggested, been received and respectfully noticed. We highly appreciate whatever tends to augment the aggregate amount of useful Botanic knowledge, and the removal of disease from the human system. We hope these friendly communications will express our views and feelings to the whole Botanic family, and that in that conciliatory spirit, we may desire to awaken in every mind.

T. HENRY  
Sec. of Gen. Cor. U. S. B.

An official enumeration of the population in Lexington, Ky., from the 1st of July to the 1st of August, has been made by a committee of the City Council of that city. The whole number was 1,500, of which 272 were whites, 1,228 and 48 free blacks. The average mortality per day, during the whole period, was between eight and nine, though the population was very materially diminished by removal. It appears that the Regular Faculty of all their skill, beneath the auspices of Transylvania University, with medical science, could furnish if any alleviation of the distresses of that devoted city, or stay the progress of its desolation.

The Regulars had the whole of the matter to themselves. The Pestilence prevailed on regardless of all their lore and mineralogical skill. A village the plague raged with a deadly fatality. The Physicians of the School took to their heels, and left their lives. But Dr. Nathaniel Thomsonian, with his Thomsonian Laxative Syrup, “met the enemy where he was,” and death was before him. Here was a new era in the System. Here was no more of the old practice. No innovators could round. No jealous rival could for fame to jostle him out of his place, and reproach the cause. True, in all places, the snakey tongue of the enemy was maliciously busy to misrep-



and traduce the merits of the system — but Providence has so guarded the avenues of slander and detraction, that truth has triumphed, and tyranny and opposition took sanctuary in the shade of concealment. Still, now and then the voice of invective floats on the breeze, or some fatherless tale of scandal stirs round an evening fire, in recesses of solitude and retirement. But the cause moves on with mighty triumph, manure all opposition.

“ Look at the moon, ye surly dogs of night ;

“ She neither heeds your howls nor shines less bright ! ”

The New York Mercantile Advertiser says, “ that a letter from Lagunayra states, that five thousand five hundred and fifty persons died at Campeachy of Cholera, from the 25th of June to the 11th of July.” Many other accounts are equally terrible. Not one of them ever tasted any of the Cholera Syrup, or used any of the Thomsonian medicine. To say the least, we have not yet received any intimations of the Botanic Practice being named among them. We apprehend that Calomel, Opium, Emetic Tartar, and the Lancet, are with them the principal instruments used in combating the pestilence. Where the Regular Faculty have stood alone, without competitors, on whom they could wind the coil of reproach, have, in all countries, where the late pestilence has travelled, committed themselves to flight or despair, or practised in a manner so unsuccessful as to entail upon the craft everlasting degradation.

By the decease of the venerable Judge, ROBERT BENSON, of New York, our country has been deprived of one of her best citizens and much distinguished patriots. Our most respected Ex-President, James Madison, is left as it were alone on the earth, the only surviving member of the first American Congress in 1781; as he is also the last survivor of the Convention which formed the Federal Constitution, that for so long a season has been the polar star to direct the course of legislation in this magnanimous nation.

In Boston a bushel of peaches would recently sell for six dollars. The New York market furnishes them plentifully, and of a good quality, for one dollar per bushel. “ It would be difficult,” says the Philadelphia Bulletin, “ for either to produce an average sample, to compete with the peaches which continue to pour into our city, in unusual abundance, equally excellent in size and flavor.” In Columbus, apples, peaches, pears, and plums, of a size and perfection rarely excelled, have been offered in abundance, until the closing period of what has been commonly known as the sickly season had arrived, and the health of our citizens evidently improved. When in the plenitude of a little brief authority, the Mayor and Council of the Borough, by a special act of prohibition, vetoed the sale or even the use of fruits and vegetables of almost every name. The awkwardness and impropriety of the law alluded to, under the existing circumstances of the season and state of disease—the maturity and perfection of growth and quality to which these productions of the earth have now attained, is without a parallel in Ohio legislation.

Thirty thousand dollars have been appropriated by the Congress of the Mexican States, for the purchase of periodical publications : so says the newspapers.

Each carping Editor, you see,  
Thinks, Mexicans ! do you mean me ?  
This itchy forwardness and pothier,  
Gives to us no kind of bother ;  
But if they wish for our Recorder,  
We'll send it to their legal order.

A single leaf of the Bene Plant, (*sesamum orientale*) in a tumbler full of water, forms one of the most refreshing drinks that can be given to a feverish patient—and, from its being colorless, and almost tasteless, it is seldom refused.

The Nantucket Inquirer says—“ A hearty laugh is occasionally an act of wisdom ; it shakes the cobwebs out of a man's brains, and the hypochondria from his ribs, far more effectually than either champagne or blue pills.”

## TEXAS.

In the autumn of 1831, Mrs. Mary Austin Holly, (widow of the late President Holly, of Transylvania University.) visited Texas, with a view to the settlement of her son. On her return, Mrs. H. published a small volume, concerning the country, in which all previous accounts of its natural beauty and resources, its remarkable fertility—the variety of its productions, the salubrity of the climate, and its mild temperature, during all seasons of the year, are reiterated, and enlarged upon with enthusiasm. Mrs. Holly arrived at Brazora, on the Brazos, in October.—This place was founded about three year since, and contains about fifty families, some of which are intelligent emigrants from New England. Subsequently, the writer penetrated the interior. The climate is described, in general terms, to be a perpetual summer. As an evidence of the fertility of the soil, it is said, that sweet potatoes yield, at times, 500 bushels to the acre, and some of them weigh from four to seven pounds. All other vegetables, and the most delicious fruits, grows in great abundance. There are large tracts, heavily wooded with live oak, and other valuable timber. Some portions of Austin's Colony are well settled; it is, in short, according to our fair author, the very *El Dorado* of romance, and the Saturnian era is, at last fully realised.

"The people are universally kind and hospitable. Every body's house is open to the traveller. There are no poor, and no rich: that is, none who have much money. All are happy, because busy; and none meddle with the affairs of their neighbors, because they have enough to do, to take of their own.—They are bound together by a common interest, by sameness of purpose and hopes. As far as I could learn, they have no envyings, no jealousies, no bickerings through politics, or fanaticism. There is neither masonry or anti-masonry, nullification, nor court intrigues."

The slaves in the British West Indies amount to 692,600.—The whites to 77,460.

## PEACH-MEATS WANTED.

The General Agents of Dr. Samuel Thomson, at Columbus, wish to purchase a large quantity of the kernels, or meats contained in peach-stones.—As this is the season for drying peaches, it would be an object worthy some attention from those who may be doing any thing of an extensive business in that way. A generous price will be given for any quantity, carefully preserved from injury, that may be delivered in due season.

**THE BOOK CORRESPONDENT.**—All our Agents, wheresoever these presents may come greeting, are requested immediately to report what number of Thomsonian Books they have on hand unsold. If another edition is like to be needed soon, we wish to be apprised of it in season. We are provided with a new and elegant fount of type, suited to our purpose, and a good new Press of our own, and competent workmen engaged. The second volume of the Thomsonian Recorder will appear in a new and improved style. Much interesting matter has been detained to ornament its pages, and no pains will be spared to make it a more and more interesting and valuable publication.

We are happy to announce the determination of the Senior Editor to use increasing diligence to make it an original, useful, and entertaining work. The zealous and extensive patronage that has so ably sustained the publishers for the year past, is the surest presage we can ask, to enlarge our expectations and animate our exertions for the year that is to come. Such Agents as may attend the Convention at Pittsburgh, on the 14th of October next, of which they have been repeatedly apprized by the corresponding Secretary of the Botanic Society of the United States, can then and there make report agreeably to the above request.

Respectfully suggested by

JARVIS PIKE, & Co.

Gen. Agents for Dr. S. Thomson.

# THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

"Let mystery be stripped of all pretence,"  
"And practice be combined with common sense."

PUBLISHED BY JARVIS PIKE & Co.—T. HERSEY, Senior Editor.

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## TEMPERANCE AND LIBERTY INSEPARABLE.

Extract from an Address delivered on the 4th of July, 1833, at Peekskill, N. Y., before the Temperance Society of Cortland Town, by William Goodell.

"The time would fail me to speak of all the public pests that plague our fair inheritance, which *must* be swept away if the nation is to be saved, and if temperance efforts prosper, *will* be.

*Theatres*, those schools of every vice; *profanity*, that dialect of earthly demons; the curse of *desecrated Sabbaths*, the withering blight of ungoverned families and uninstructed firesides.—*These*, and every other germ and form of public mischief, that pains the eye of watchful patriotism, may all be classed among the *causes*, as well as the *effects* of inebriation—the stumbling blocks under the wheels of the temperance effort, which its friends will be called upon to remove, and in the removing of which, they will remove the principal dangers of true liberty.

But there is one remaining item, on the dark scroll of our national guilt and danger, that must not be passed over without the marked censure its enormity demands. It is an evil that not only *threatens*, but contradicts, and *nullifies*, at the present hour, the boasted liberty of our country. Can we forget, that while we are celebrating the anniversary of our escape from political tyranny, and in the light of this nineteenth century, proclaiming that "God had created all men free and equal," we are, *ourselves*, as a people, condemning two millions of our "free and equal" fellow men, the natives of this soil of freedom, to a bondage more oppressive and hopeless, than the past annals of man have ever yet recorded? Survey the picture. Behold two millions of human beings subjected to personal

caprice, without the protection of law. Remember, that the light of the bible, is, by statute, denied to the most of them; that parents and children are daily separated and sold like brute beasts; that not the testimony of one of these outcasts is permitted to be heard as evidence in courts of justice; so that life and death, as well as female purity, are virtually in the hands of the irresponsible master. Think of these things, and say whether we have not cause, this day, like Jefferson, to "tremble for our country, when we reflect that God is just, and that his justice cannot sleep forever;" that our national compact binds its northern as well as its southern members, promptly to shoulder arms against a servile insurrection, while—fearful thought! in the language of the same statesman, himself a slaveholder,—"the Almighty has no attribute that could take sides with us in such a contest!" Could we expect to prosper, in arms against omnipotence? If not, let us count the cost; repent in dust and ashes; do works meet for repentance; and wash our hands, whilst yet the hastening crisis seems to linger.

But grant the possibility of submissive peace on the part of the slave; the impunity of blackening guilt, under the government of God; the perpetuity of unredressed accumulating wrongs, in the progress of the human improvement; (phenomena, the moral world has never witnessed and doubtless never will!) What then?

The intrinsic turpitude—the unalterable tendency of oppression would still remain, and nature's course must be arrested, before the fatal blight of our republic could be averted.

In his celebrated "Notes on Virginia," the writer already quoted, has traced some of the moral effects of slavery on *the master*. We have his testimony to the fact, that slavery renders him a tyrant. And what, let me ask, becomes of the "*liberty*" and the "*re-*

*publicanism* of a nation composed of 'slaves' on the one hand, and 'tyrants' and their supporters on the other?

But, waving even this view of the subject, which of the giant vices already contemplated as undermining our republic, can be successfully assailed and overcome, during the undisturbed continuance of slavery? Not one of them. Slavery undermines industry. Labor becomes disreputable. The lower classes of the laboring free whites, in the presence of slavery, are despised, degraded, ignorant and vicious. The middle class is annihilated. In the higher classes idleness is identified with respectability, and profligacy and prodigality ensue. To hunt, to fish, to lounge, to seek the sports of the turf, these are the more innocent of the avocations of the young heir apparent of a slave-stained fortune. And when parental prudence would instruct him in the arts of thrift and business, what is it but to learn him the art of cruelty and oppression—the art of driving a slave! To what scenes, to what sounds, does his patrimonial plantation introduce him! The menial drudgery, the cracking whip; the unrestrained licentiousness, where human beings propagate like brutes—know not their sires; are held by them in bondage, or sold like sheep or oxen! Can virtue thrive in scenes like these? What are the facts? Does not this irresponsibility result in contempt of law? What idea of liberty can prevail in scenes like these, aside from the liberty of licentiousness, and of lawless unrestraint? What marvel that murder becomes an affair of honor, and the threat of rebellion, a substitute for logic.

Who does not know that the twin vices of *licentiousness* and *intemperance* are coupled together, throughout the bible, and in all the history of man! Who does not know that slavery, as it exists in our country, not merely releases two millions of our population from the restraints of the seventh commandment, but actually prohibits a compliance with them? Who does not know that the effect on the *master*, especially in the higher circles, is almost as degrading as on the slave? Who does not know that our brightest statesmen hold their own spurious offspring

as their property? What southern wife, or mother, or sister, is not aware of these facts? What virtuous fireside in the nation, ought not to be alarmed by it? If "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump," what shall resist or neutralize this mass of moral putrefaction? Who shall assure us, that the centre seat of our republic shall not become a central Sodom, a heart that shall send, with every throb, through every vein, its poison through the body politic?

The same researches that have resulted in the conviction that *licentiousness* must be assailed, in order to remove *intemperance*, have equally demonstrated, that both *intemperance* and *licentiousness* will bid defiance to all our efforts, so long as *slavery* is permitted to exist undisturbed. McDowall, at New York, and a laborious and discriminating friend of temperance at New Orleans, have both, without concert, arrived at the same conclusion, within the year past.

It would be easy to argue from other data, the incompatibility of *slavery* with our free institutions, and the necessity of its speedy overthrow, in order to the preservation of our republic. Conflicting views of political economy and national policy, have recently endangered our peace, and the compromise of the last session of Congress is regarded rather as a truce than as a settlement of the controversy. Yet we have the united testimony of both parties, that the bone of contention is the comparative advantages, and the rivalries of free and slave labor. But it is not my purpose to discuss this topic.

Suffice it to say, that *slavery* must be abolished or the nation ruined; and that the successful prosecution of the temperance efforts, necessarily involves the overthrow of *slavery*.

Like all other moral evils, *intemperance*, and *slavery*, mutually sustain each other. Their moral affinities have been partly traced by President Humphrey, in his parallel between *intemperance* and the slave-trader. The careful reader has only to remember, that *slavery* as much resembles *intemperance*, as *intemperance* resembles *slavery*, in order to read, in that author, the doctrine for which I am contending.

*Why* do we oppose intemperance, but because it *enslaves* men? This is the burden of our theme? Can we, then, be indifferent to *slavery itself*, without convicting ourselves of gross hypocrisy?

Slavery and intemperance have ever gone hand in hand. The first labor of the West India slave was to manufacture *rum*. In the African slave trade, from the beginning up to the present hour, the price of the slave is paid in *rum*.

Strong drink inflames the petty wars among the negro chiefs, whose captives are sold in slavery! Slavery, in its turn, subjects the master to the slavery of appetite and strong drink!

But the time hastens, when the 'sovereigns' of this nation shall '*not drink wine,*' nor its 'princes *strong drink.*'—Then will they cease to '*forget the law,*' which declares all men free and equal,' and he no longer '*pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.*' [Prov. xxxi. 4, 5.] Then shall the lion lie down with the lamb, the ox and the bear shall feed together; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Thus will the temperance effort, if successful, sustain the cause of human freedom, by rendering men capable of maintaining it, and disposed to enjoy it; by inducing the habits wherein it consists, and by which it must be perpetuated; by involving in its prosecution and demanding in its progress, the removal of its kindred and causing vices, which are also the chief dangers of freedom; more especially that master vice of our republic, which contradicts republicanism itself, lies at the foundation of all our other vices, and directly threatens our national existence.

The temperance reformation, when completed, will be the noblest monument of *human* achievement the world has yet seen; and it will be emphatically the work of *the people*. *Pyramids* have been built by *tyrants*; empires have been founded by *sages*, and overthrown by *conquerors*. But if the temperance reformation be achieved at all, it must be done by *the people*. Legislators, as such, cannot accomplish it. Philosophers must *witness* the phenomenon, before they will conceive its

*possibility*: their work will be to trace its causes from its effects, its nature from its operations.

It was an imposing spectacle, when our forefathers ventured to assert the *right of self-control*, and indignantly hurled back to the sea the proud billows of foreign invasion. But this was, comparatively, the work of *physical* strength; and the world has seen conquerors before.

It was a still prouder day, when the assembled wisdom of the nation marked out the bold, yet accurate, outline of our constitutional freedom. Once more the world admired; it was an achievement of *intellectual* power; the work of sages. But the world had seen sages before.

But if the *self-control*, asserted by the revolution, *planned* by the republican and federative organization shall be carried into its full *practical* exercise, by the temperance reformation, it will be the climax of *moral* effort—a work to which the strength of warriors, and the wisdom of sages, were but auxiliary and preparatory. And *this* will be the work of *the people* themselves, who, in achieving it, will not only succeed *without*, but *against* the strength of aristocratic influence. A spectacle *thus* magnificent, the world has not yet witnessed.

The first light of our rising star of temperance, has indeed, beamed across the Atlantic, and nations, desirous of liberty, are anxiously watching our horizon.

We are encompassed with a cloud of witnesses. *Friends of temperance and liberty!*—"one and indivisible"—"stand up to your work, and go forward!" Onward! is the watch-word. Not to progress, is to fall backward. The Canaan of rest is still before you. The giants are yet to be conquered, and the Jordan to be crossed. But, like the conqueror of Babylon, you possess the secret of drying up the stream, and diverting it from its ancient bed. "Stand up, then, to your work, and go forward." It is a warfare without a truce, without a neutral, and without quarter. He who "has declared the end from the beginning," has promised you success; and spread over you his banner of protection. Let your trust be in Him,



whose right hand weilds the lightnings of heaven, whose truth is mightier than his thunder-bolts, and whose own omnipotence is pledged to secure its efficacy.

### MODES AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF DYING.

Our extracts are from an article in the London Quarterly, founded on Sir H. Hallford's Essays and Orations before the Royal College of Physicians. They are spoken of in terms of high praise.

Sir Henry's remarks on the phenomena of the death-bed will be read with particular interest:—Whatever be the causes of dissolution, whether sudden violence or lingering malady, the immediate modes by which death is brought about, appears to be two. In the one, the nervous system is primarily attacked, and there is a sinking, sometimes an instantaneous extinction of the powers of life; in the other, dissolution is effected by the circulation of black venous blood in the arteries of the body, instead of the red arterial blood. The former is termed death by syncope, or fainting,—the latter, death by asphyxia. In the last mentioned manner of death, when it is the result of disease, the struggle is long protracted, and accompanied by all the visible marks of agony which the imagination associates with the closing scene of life,—the pinched and palid features, the cold clammy skin, the upturned eye, and the heaving, laborious, rattling respiration. Death does not strike all the organs of the body at the same time; some may be said to survive others; and the lungs are among the last to give up the performance of their functions and die. As death approaches, they become gradually more and more oppressed; the air-cells are loaded with an increased quantity of fluid, which naturally lubricates their surfaces, the atmosphere can now no longer come in contact with the minute blood vessels spread over the air-cells, without first permeating this viscid fluid,—hence the rattle; nor is the contact sufficiently perfect to change the black venous into

the red arterial blood; an unprepared fluid consequently issues from the lungs into the heart, and is thence transmitted to every other organ in the body.—The brain receives it and its energies are lulled thereby into sleep—generally tranquil sleep—filled with dreams which impel the dying lip to murmur out the names of friends, and the occupations and recollections of past life: the peasant 'babbles o' green fields, and Napoleon expires amid visions of battle, uttering with his last breath '*l'ele d'armee.*'

The contrast between the state of the body and that of the mind, is often very striking; the struggles of the former are no measure of the emotions of the latter. Indeed, the laborious and convulsive heavings of the chest are wholly automatic, independent of the will,—a part of the mechanism of the body, contrived for its safety, which continues to act when the mind is unconscious of the sufferings of the frame, or is occupied by soothing illusions. No one has described this better than Abernethy.

'Delirium often takes place in consequence of an accident of no very momentous kind,—it may occur without fever, or it may be accompanied with irritative sympathetic fever which is often the "last stage of all that closes the sad eventful history," of a compound fracture. Delirium seems to be a very curious affection; in this state a man is quite unconscious of his disease, he will give a rational answer to any question you put to him, when you rouse him, but he relapses into a state of wandering, and his actions correspond with his dreamings. I remember a man with compound fracture in this hospital, whose leg was in a horrible state of sloughing. I have roused him, and said, "Thomas, what is the matter with you? how do you do?" He would reply, "Pretty hearty, I thank ye; nothing is the matter with me; how do you do?" He would then go on dreaming of one thing or another; I have listened at his bed-side, and I am sure his dreams were often of a pleasant kind. He met old acquaintances in his dreams,—people whom he remembered *lang syne*, his former companions, his kindred and relations, and he expressed

his delight at seeing them. He would exclaim every now and then,—‘That’s a good one; well I never heard a better joke,’ and so on. It is a curious circumstance that all consciousness of suffering is thus cut off, as it were, from the body; and it cannot but be regarded as a very benevolent effect of nature’s operations that extremity of suffering should thus bring with it its antidote.’

Occasionally the last dreams of existence are of a more painful nature;—guilt is delirious with dread,—remorse peoples the fancy with terrific visions—but even these are chequered with scenes of a tranquil, not to say of a trivial character. The death-bed of Cardinal Beaufort, terribly true, is rare; the mixt feelings and shadowings of past life, exhibited in that of Falstaff, are much more frequent.

The second mode of dissolution is marked by the absence of all corporeal struggles. The mind is left free and unclouded to the very verge of the grave save by the influence which the particular malady itself exercises on the current of ideas and feelings. The sufferings of the patient are incidental to the progress of the disease; but the ‘end of all’ is placid, painless, and generally sudden. Death, in these cases, attacks the sentient principle, through the nervous system, as it were, directly. It surprises the sufferer sometimes when sighing for the consummation of life, but yet believing the term yet distant; sometimes in the midst of plans and schemes which are destined never to be realized. In consumptions, and in general, in diseases which are slow in their progress, sudden termination of life is as common as that of the more protracted form, already noticed. It is best exemplified by death produced by lightning in which the visible alterations in the frame, affords a striking contrast to the ordinary ravages of what is termed disease. The machinery of the body appears nearly perfect, and unscathed, and yet in none of the multitudinous forms of death, is the living principle so summarily annihilated. Certain poisons appear to act in a similar manner; and, occasionally, the more important operations of surgery are followed by

the like result; for which the genius of John Hunter could find no better explanation than the figurative hypothesis, that the *vis medecatrix*, conscious that the injury is irreparable, gives up the contest in despair.

Severe injuries inflicted on the great centres of the nervous system, the brain, spine, and stomach, are followed by instantaneous death; of which, pithing or wounding the uppermost part of the spinal marrow of the bull, in the arena, and the *coup de grace* or blow on the stomach of the criminal, whose limbs have been previously broken on the wheel, are well known examples.—Emotions of the mind, especially such as, by their depressing character, exhaust the energies of life, often terminate in this mode of death. The slightest causes, a mere fainting fit, trivial in every other state of the frame, in this may be fatal. It is the enthusiasm of a healthy old age, and the termination assigned by nature to a life in which the passions have been controlled and the energies regulated by the authority of reason and a sense of duty.

When we look at the one mode of dissolution or the other, the sting of death is certainly not contained in the physical act of dying. Sir Henry Hallford, after forty year’s experience, says:

“Of the great number to whom it has been my painful professional duty to have administered in the last hours of their lives, I have sometimes been surprised that so few have appeared reluctant to go to ‘the undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returns.’ Many, we may easily suppose, have manifested this willingness to die, from an impatience of suffering, or from that passive indifference which is sometimes the result of debility and extreme bodily exhaustion. But I have seen those who have arrived at a fearless contemplation of the future, from faith in the doctrine which our religion teaches. Such men were not only calm and supported, but even cheerful in the hour of death; and I never quitted such a sick chamber without a wish that ‘my last end might be like theirs.’”

### CLEANLINESS.

Cleanliness is a capital ingredient; for there never was yet and there never will be love of long duration, sincere and ardent love, in any man, without it. I contend that there never can exist for any length of time *ardent affection*, in any man, towards a woman who is without this virtue, either in her person or in household affairs. Men may be careless as to their own persons; they may, from the nature of their business, or from their want of time to adhere to neatness in dress, be slovenly in their own dress and habits, but they do not relish this in their wives, who must still have charms; and charms and distress, like reason and bracelets, do not go in company.

It is not *dress* that the husband wants to be perpetual; it is not finery; but cleanliness in every thing. The French women dress enough, especially when they *sally forth*. My excellent neighbor, Mr. John Treadwell of Long Island, used to say that the French were pigs in the parlor, and peacocks on the promenade; an alliteration which 'Canning's self' might have envied. 'This *occasional* cleanliness is not the thing that an English or American husband wants, he wants it always; in doors as well as out; by night as well as by day; on the floor as well as on the table, and however he may grumble about the "*fuss*" and the "*expense*" of it, he would grumble more if he had it not.

The *signs* of cleanliness are, in the first place, a clean skin—a girl will have her face and hands clean, to be sure, if there be soap and water within her reach, but if you see any sign of dirt on her neck or head, the sooner you cease your visits the better. I hope, now, that no young woman will be offended at this, and think me too severe on her sex. I am only telling the women, that which *all men think*; and it is a decided advantage to them to be fully informed of our *thoughts* on the subject. If any one who shall read this, find upon self-examination that she is defective in this respect, there is plenty of time for correcting the defect.

In the *dress*, amongst those who are very wealthy, you can find little where-

on to form a judgment, as to neatness, because they have the dress not only *prepared* for them, but *put on them* into the bargain. But in other ranks of life, the dress is a good criterion in two respects; *first* as to its color; for if the *white* be a sort of *yellow*, cleanly hands would have been at work to prevent that. A white yellow cravat on a man speaks at once the character of his wife; and be you assured, she will never take with her own dress, pains she has not taken with his. Then the manner of putting on the dress is no bad foundation for judging. It must not be careless and slovenly; it must fit properly. Look at the *shoes*, if they be trodden on one side, loose on the foot, or run down at the heel, it is a very bad sign; as to slip shod, though at coming down in the morning, even before day light, make up your mind to a rope, rather than to live with a slipshod wife.

Oh! how much do women lose by inattention to these matters! Men in general say nothing about it to their wives, but they envy their luckier neighbors, and in many instances, consequences the most serious, arise from this apparently trifling cause. Beauty is valuable, it is one of the ties, and a strong tie too; that, however, cannot last to an old age, but the charm of cleanliness never ends, but with life itself.—Cobbett.

### AROMATIC BITTERS.

Take of poplar bark, (*quaking asp*), golden seal, (*kircuma*) of each four ounces; bayberry bark, six ounces; prickly ash bark, two ounces; cloves, two ounces; Cayenne, one ounce; star-grass, (*copavi roots*) and umbil, of each, three ounces. Let these articles be reduced to an extremely fine powder, and carefully sifted through a fine seive; then add, of loaf sugar, a quantity equal in bulk to the whole of the other ingredients; mix them thoroughly in a mortar. A teaspoonful of these bitters may be taken dry several times in a day, or with the addition of hot or cold water, with or without the addition of a few teaspoonsfuls of spirit, for

it can be of no service, unless to make the medicine more palatable; but for habitual use, as in dyspeptic cases, such indulgence should be prohibited. They may be sweetened to suit the taste of the patient when taken. These bitters are a warming, grateful cordial to the stomach, promote digestion, and invigorate the whole system.

### AGUE COMPOSITION.

Take of Rattleroot, and of the bark of the root of Dogwood and of the bark of the root of Yellow Poplar, each one ounce finely pulverised, and three Nutmegs of a common size; Cayenne, one heaped tea-spoonful; Cholera Syrup, one pint. Let these finely powdered ingredients be well shaken with the Syrup; and the system having been prepared by a thorough Thomsonian course, repeated as the case may appear to require; dose, a table-spoonful every hour during the intermission, increasing a little until the chill returns. When the ague is broke it should be continued for several days.

### EYE-WATER.

#### No. 1.

Take of White Vitriol and Table Salt, of each a table-spoonful; mix them well together, in an earthen, or copper, or iron vessel, stirring carefully, until the mass becomes a grey powder; then add a pint of rain water very pure; dissolve and strain through several thicknesses of fine cloth; add two table-spoonful of fine sugar, and a piece of blue vitriol the size of two Indian corns; finally, strain the whole mixture through brown paper, and put it in phials for use. We know that by giving this recipe, we may be told that this is a mineral preparation; in reply we say it is merely an external application, and belongs rather to the surgical department of medicine. Many vegetable preparations are good, but often leave a deep disagreeable stain. This has been tested to be a very good preparation. A few drops may be dropped into the eye several times in a day. It may be applied with the end of a finger or by a soft linen rag wet therein and applied to the eye.

### EYE-WATER, No. 2.

Take of Green Ozier, the bark, scraped fine, one handful; add half a pint of soft water, about milk warm; let them stand and steep about the same warmth for two hours or more; add a piece of pure Pearl Ash as large as a large Sugar Pea; a table-spoonful of refined Sugar, and a strong glass of French Brandy; filter through paper and bottle for use.

This preparation, or even a simple infusion of the green bark in water has been found useful in inflammations of the eyes, and for sore eyes of almost every description.

N. B. The Green Ozier, sometimes called Pigeon Berry, is a shrub that grows from six to eight feet in height, by hedges and by water courses. It has oval shaped leaves, white blossoms, succeeded by small blue berries. The bark is of a dark green color, interspersed with white specks. It is the Kinnakanic of the Indians. The dried bark, smoked, has the character of being useful for the relief of spasmodic asthma. The aborigines smoke it as a substitute for tobacco. The dried bark, pulverized and made into tea, has acquired some reputation in bowel complaints of children. A tea of the green bark drank warm proves an emetic.— Perhaps, like the thorough-wort tea, if drank cold, it might not offend the stomach. Of this, however, we know nothing by experience. For sore and inflamed eyes, the infusion, or eye water, as prescribed above, may be applied by the finger or by a soft linen rag. It should be frequently repeated according to the emergency of the case.

### COUGH DROPS.

Take of Hoarhound, one handful; coarse Bayberry, four ounces; Ohio Kercuma, called Golden Seal, two ounces; coarsely pulverized Pond Lily roots, two ounces; Skunk Cabbage roots, in coarse powder, three ounces; Nerve Powder, four ounces; Wake Robin, or Indian Turnip, three ounces; half an ounce of No. 2; boil the ingredients in a gallon of rain water or soft spring water down to half a gallon; strain it through a thick cloth, and reduce it by boiling down to one quart; then add one pint of

good sugar-house molasses. Then add two ounces of a saturated tincture of No. 1, and one ounce of the third preparation, and bottle it for use. Dose, from half a tea-spoonful to a tea-spoonful, if the cough be violent; in slight cases, three or four times a day. In frequent fits of coughing, a lesser quantity may be taken more frequently, as the stomach will bear it. At night, it may be taken in *composition* tea, to which may be added Skunk Cabbage and Nerve Powder; cover up warm and put a warm stone to the feet.

#### ESSENCES—HOW TO MAKE.

The Essence of Hemlock, or Peppermint, or Pennyroyal, or Cinnamon, or Summer Savory, or Winter Green, or Juniper, or Wormwood, or Tansy, is made by taking one ounce of the essential oil of either of the articles you wish to prepare, and pour it into one pint of good alcohol or rectified spirits of wine, and shaking them well together. Ten, fifteen, or twenty drops, and sometimes more, of these essences may be dropped on a piece of white sugar, and dissolved in a little warm herb drink suitable for such form of complaint as you are wishing to relieve. They are often used in small doses to make medicine palatable, and to make it set easy and agreeable on the stomach.

#### POTATOE STARCH.

[ *Common Arrow Root.* ]

Potatoe Starch is a valuable substitute for the Arrow Root that is brought from Jamaica and other West India islands, and South America. Potatoes washed and peeled should be grated down fine, on a tin grater large enough to be handy and convenient for the purpose, into a tub of clean cold water. The starch settling to the bottom, the water may be poured off; or the whole, after soaking a while, may be well agitated, and strained through a common sieve. In this way it may be washed and cleansed, and a pure starch obtained. Young Indian Corn, while the ears are in the milk, may be handled in the same way, and a valuable starch, to make Arrow Root jelly, or an excellent resemblance thereof, may be obtained. It is a curi-

ous fact, that it may be made from frozen Potatoes, equally good with that obtained from those that have never been injured by the frost.

The jelly is made by adding to a table-spoonful of the pure starch as much cold water as will make it into a soft paste; then pour on boiling water, stirring it at the same time briskly, until it becomes a clear jelly, which may be seasoned with sugar and nutmeg, or a few stoned raisins, or a little wine or lemon juice may be added. It is a valuable article of diet for the sick, the convalescent, and those laboring under bowel complaints, diarrhoea, dysentery, &c.

#### WORM SYRUP.

Take of the bark of the roots of Yellow Poplar, one pound; Spice-bush tops, half a pound; Unicorn roots and Colic roots, coarsely pulverized, and Skunk Cabbage roots, cut up fine, each half a pound; common Ginger, four ounces; African Cayenne, *half an ounce*; boil these in two gallons of soft water down to half a gallon. Add, after straining through a thick linen cloth, an equal quantity of sugar-house molasses; ~~wald~~ and skim, and reduce the whole to the consistence of syrup or common molasses. Add one pint of West India Rum, and keep in a cool place. Children from three to five years of age may take two or three table-spoonful of this, night and morning, for a week; then miss a few days and repeat. It is usually advisable to evacuate the stomach and bowels by an emetic and injections at the commencement, and in many cases to repeat the process occasionally. In this way, the digestive powers will be supported. Daily doses of Ohio Kercuma is excellent for weak digestion and bowel affections in children, which are often improperly imputed to worms. Remove the cause and the effect will cease. The directions in the "New Guide" should never be dispensed with in urgent cases, where the means can be obtained. We know this prescription to be valuable as a tonic, and as a vermifuge or worm medicine. But it is only recommended as affording auxiliary aid, in strict conformity to Dr. Thomson's general design, in his mode of treating



patients who have a redundancy or supernumerary quantity of worms, or such cases as are, frequently very erroneously, supposed to be of that description. From the abundance of cold phlegm, and the crudities of a bad digestion, with which children and grown persons are often afflicted, the peculiar nature of these forms of disease is often very imperfectly understood, even by those who profess to have acquired some good degree of scientific knowledge. In this state of the stomach and bowels, a nucleus is formed that constitutes a natural residence for worms. Notwithstanding they are frequently more troublesome than dangerous, there are some terrible instances on record of their ravages in penetrating the bowels and getting into the cavity of the belly, and by the irritation they have excited, produced convulsive fits of the epileptic kind, and even destroyed life.

The extract or syrup of the Butternut bark is accounted a useful purgative after using other medicines for worms. It is itself a vermifuge or worm medicine.

#### OINTMENT FOR HEMORRHOIDAL TUMORS.

Take of Mayweed tops and blossoms, Yarrow leaves and tops, White Clover blossoms, Skunk Cabbage tops and roots, and common Plantain, of each four ounces; let them all be well bruised; add one pound and a quarter of fresh lard; simmer together, and afterwards bring the herbs to a crisp, being careful not to burn the ointment; strain, and add two ounces of clean bees-wax; melt, and when removed from the fire, stir until cool. To be used as other Unctions are used for the same complaint.

#### BAYBERRY AND NO. 6.

An infusion of the powder of the bark of the root of Bayberry, made strong in boiling water, and to every table-spoonful of the strained liquor add one or two tea-spoonful of No. 6, and sweeten the whole well with loaf sugar.—This is an excellent remedy for the bowel complaint in children. It also makes a valuable restorative after a course of medicine.

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

*For the Thomsonian Recorder.*

##### A VOICE FROM THE SOUTH.

Messrs. Editors:—I am happy to learn from the columns of your valuable Recorder, that the Thomsonian practitioners of botanic medicine, are able to check and often control the cholera, where they have a fair chance and first attendance. Our state has happily escaped the desolating scourge as yet: but we cannot reasonably expect it to pass over us altogether; the ordinary summer complaint, (Diarrhœa,) has been quite common, but very moderate, except in a few instances it was (by the skilful management of Law protected Drs.) made fatal by the use of their mineral poisons.

How long the free and liberal minded citizens of S. Carolina, will be deluded by, their M. Ds. is impossible for me to say; but I think; once they can fairly see both sides of the picture they will fly from mineral poisons, as I have heard of some flying from the desolating cholera. As for my own part I have long been of the honest opinion that the practice of mineral medicine, bleeding, blistering &c., is by far the greatest scourge of the two.

The established faculty of S. Carolina well know the great advantages in Dr. Thomson's system of botanic practice; and many of them use their influence to keep it at a distance, by inventing and putting into circulation every false statement and misrepresentation that they can devise against it; and through their zeal to maintain their sinking cause, they threaten with indictment &c. But they should recollect, that if their mineral Practice was blameless, there would not have been a new and better practice sought out.

But that the practice of mineral medicines are both dangerous and de-

destructive to the lives and constitutions of all who take them, is a fact that many aged citizens well know. Forty years ago when there was but few Drs. and the people of this as well as other states, used the simple vegetable medicines of the country—the same diseases, were not half so alarming nor fatal, as they have been since, under the treatment and management of *skillful* mineral Drs.—But in later days they have become very numerous, their trade has increased, and their numbers increased to an alarming extent, and the consequences are awful to relate; stout healthy young men, and women, in the prime of life, (from the skillful management of their poisons,) are dying in every directions; and from report, with diseases that were never known to kill any one, if the crafty Dr. was kept at a distance. “But the prophets prophesy falsely; and the priests bear rule by their means and the people love to have it so;” But “*mene, mene, tekle uphar-sin.*” The fact that the M. Drs. seeking and obtaining protection under the strong arm of the law; proves that their trade was imperfect, their remedies, was lacking efficacy, that they often multiplied diseases, and increased their mortality; the common people saw plainly, and believed verily that the skillful physician, with his deadly poisons, was a curse, rather than a blessing, to the community, which state of things gave rise to the general inquiry, “Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there?” And a voice like thunder, that shocked the M. D’s. from Maine to Georgia, proclaimed at Washington City, that, *Dr Samuel Thomsons System of Medical Botany, as secured to him by letters patent, would cure all diseases if timely and properly applied; and that every man of common capacity, could become his own physician at a trifling expense. This is a death blow to*

the S. Carolina faculty, as well as those several other states; they went clad in sackcloth, gnashed their teeth, and wept bitterly. But the Honorable, the Legislature of S. Carolina heard their groans, and had compassion on her sons of Mercury, and through their zeal, passed an *ex post facto law*; which secures to the sons of mercury the exclusive right of receiving fee or reward for medicine or attendance on the sick, subjecting to fine and imprisonment all offenders.

This unconstitutional law secured the skillful physicians from intruders for a time, caused their numbers to increase rapidly; but lo! Dr. Samuel Thomson’s Botanic practice has found its way into their ranks; and is spreading its influence far and wide, and thousands are happily relieved of their infirmities, to their inexpressible joy, and that also of their friends.

A. V. S.

For the Recorder.

From the Secretary of the Medical Botanical Society, of Autauga county Alabama.

The article Lobelia inflata from the pen of professor Rafinesque, having presented itself, I shall without any complimentary language to the Editors of the Recorder, proceed to comment thereon.

His description of the plant is correct, and the drawing is well executed, better than Horton Howard’s. “The herbalist, Samuel Thomson, claims in his guide to health, to have discovered the properties of this plant towards 1790; but the Indians knew some of them—it was one of their pukeweeds, used by them to clear their stomach and head in their great councils.” With all due deference to the superlative talents of Professor Rafinesque, I am induced to believe, that this is an assertion without proof, which must be sustained by other evidence than the mere *ipse dixit* of the Professor himself. Observe his urbanity of expression:—“The herbalist Samuel Thomson,”—had he been a mock-bird of a Latin grammar school, without an original idea, and purchas-

ed a diploma, the more courtly style "Doctor" would have preceded his name. Probably, like Rafinesque, he would have been dubbed—Professor Thomson. But, to his eternal honor it is otherwise. Samuel Thomson will occupy a niche in the Temple of fame with Franklin & Ritenhouse, when the labors of Rafinesque will be sailing on the air, a paste board kite—a summit to which it would never have arisen, had not its pictures attracted the idle boy.

"It is (Lobelia) extensively used, although many physicians consider it as a deleterious narcotic, uncertain and dangerous in practice; while Thomson denies it, and considers it as harmless, depending almost altogether upon it in his new and singular practice of medicine, borrowed chiefly from the *steaming* and puking practice of the Indian tribes." That the Indians practiced *sweating* and puking, is readily admitted; but my worthy Professor, you either wilfully misrepresent, or are egregiously ignorant of Thomson's system. Let me instruct you, "dear lover" of antimonial pukes, and that purgative sweetener of the blood—Calomel.—Did the Indians know how to raise the internal heat by the stimuli—red pepper? So as more effectually to resist a greater pressure of Steam, that Chrononhotonthologos of the regular empirics, whereby a greater quantity of morbid matter might be expelled through the pores,—the Indian mode of sweating produced a partial relief—the steam an effectual one.

You are correct, Professor, in calling it—"his new and singular practice of medicine." Yet novel as it is, and singular as it may be, there is Obediah Broadbrim, and others, as anxious to pilfer from him, 'his singular practice,' as you are to rob him of having discovered the medical properties of the Lobelia Inflata.

He now exhibits it (Lobelia) *in terrorem* "producing alarming symptoms, continual vomiting, trembling, cold sweat, and even death," with other horrors "too tedious to mention."—There is an old adage, "that a liar cannot be believed though he speaks the truth." "It has been recommended, in some shape or other, for almost eve-

ry disease; but those for which it is most efficient, are spasmodic asthma, bronchial cough, tetanus or lock jaw, and strangulated hernia. In asthma particularly, it appears to be almost a specific, although it has failed in some cases where the disease was not spasmodic. It has lately been introduced into Europe as a remedy for these complaints, and with decided advantage."—Well done Professor Rafinesque!!—This is the knowledge of Doctor Cutlen, Dorsey, Thatcher and others, endorsed by yourself, and yet not a syllable would I credit, had not Doctor Thomson asserted the same many years previous.

"The practice of Thomson to use it in every thing, fevers, consumptions, measles, jaundice &c., is preposterous. It is not even a proper emetic for common use, as we have much milder."—Is tartar emetic milder? is antimonial wine? If these effected a cure, they deposited a sediment which produced diseases, that ultimately dragged the pining and repining miserable victim to an untimely grave, deliberately murdering every hour of his existence; whereas lobelia scarcely ever fails, and "leaves no sting behind." "This plant loses its active property by boiling, or even scalding." [Is this a discovery of your own? Professor, you cannot say it is, without being impugned as a literary thief, why did you not give honest Sam. Thomson as authority? for in his "Guide to Health," you may find it.—A little learning is a dangerous thing," says Pope, and I believe a great deal of it will make some men literary thieves

"And, Mr. Cannon has told me that a single dose has cured the lock jaw, by relaxing instantly the jaws and the whole system,—it must be poured on the sides of the mouth." And who is Mr. Cannon? Is it old Doctor Jesse of Georgia, who saved the horse and killed the rider:—

He bled the man most copiously,  
And gave his horse red pepper tea.  
You have now retreated behind your Cannon, this is your battery from whence you can assail the invulnerable Thomson, by giving others the credit of what he is deserving of—*par nobis fratrem*.

Two noble brothers thus disgrace their  
name,  
By robbing 'Thomson of his well earn'd  
fame.

What care I, for the regular quacks  
and quackings at the loss of practice? Is  
the life of man of so little consequence as  
to be made a compliment of, that they may  
live? Has not their ignorance and obsti-  
nacy been sufficiently gratified with ex-  
perimental poisonings that have made  
myriads disappear before the time allot'd  
for the life of man; or left the survivors  
disgusting loathing objects more to be  
pitied, than their companions who lay  
wrapt in the cold and icy arms of death?  
'The times are changed and changing;  
mystery is no longer hoddwinked, and  
men no longer take medicine on credit,  
though accompanied with a display of  
*serquepedalia uerba* knowledge.

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## THE RECORDER.

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### COLUMBUS,

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SATURDAY, SEPT. 28, 1833.

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To our friends and patrons, who  
have sustained us in our labors in  
wading through all our difficulties in  
issuing this first volume, we would  
tender the homage of our sincere and  
grateful acknowledgments. We have  
endeavored never to lose sight of the  
main object--the advancement of the  
Thomsonian System. We have la-  
bored, however, to combine variety  
in our selections of matter, and oc-  
casionally to add an elegant extract,  
anecdote, or some select article, the  
object of which has been, that it  
might serve as a spice or condiment  
to more interesting and important  
matter, an intermediate episode to  
give respite from fatigue, that might  
be a temporary relief to the reader,  
like a cool shade to a traveler on a

journey: It is the professed design  
of most periodicals, and of this in  
particular, to furnish something to  
that general stock of means whereby  
useful information may be brought  
within the reach of all classes of so-  
ciety. But we have been specially  
desirous to pursue a course that  
should not merely amuse, but really  
remunerate an intelligent community  
(with whom we are associated, to re-  
form that system of medical practice  
by which the world has been shaek-  
led and abused for ages,) for that  
liberal support they have afforded us,  
not only by their promptness in rela-  
tion to our pecuniary dependencies,  
but by the liberal contributions of  
their pens. We hope that men of  
genius, talents, and enterprise, who  
have done so much the year past,  
will regard with complacency our  
importunity in requesting them to  
double our obligation by their subse-  
quent labors. We have given much  
more matter in our first volume than  
was originally contemplated, but if  
our readers are pleased to accept our  
liberality, as a token of our respect,  
gratitude, and devotedness to the  
Thomsonian cause, it will be a source  
of distinguishing satisfaction.

Our second volume will be con-  
siderably enlarged, its typography  
and general apperance extensively  
improved; the paper will be a super-  
royal sheet; the size of the pages large  
octavo; the number of pages, as in  
the former volume, sixteen. The  
work will be issued every other Sat-  
urday, with the greatest practicable  
regularity. The Editorial depart-  
ment will receive an increased atten-

tion, in every respect calculated to improve the outward appearance and internal value of the work. The mechanical part will be executed by workmen fully competent to the business, and we flatter ourselves, that by doing our duty in the important service upon which we have entered, we shall proceed with an increase of satisfaction to ourselves, and to those for whose pleasure and benefit we delight to be engaged.

Notwithstanding the enlarged and improved condition in which our second volume will begin to make its appearance shortly, there will not be a cent's advance in the price, though our expense and labor must be considerably augmented. Every one of our old patrons, who does not give a notice of his discontinuance, will be considered as a subscriber, and the Recorder will be forwarded as heretofore.

The work, it is thought, in its improved condition, will be acknowledged by all competent judges to be afforded at a rate as reasonable, if not on more moderate terms, than any periodical of equal size and workmanship in the United States. We have determined that this work should be executed in a masterly style, and afforded at a reduced price. It is not sustained by advertisements, but by its subscribers. This circumstance will most effectually abate all temptations to any one, to attempt anything like competition. We design to make the Recorder the grand focus, where all the rays of the light of the

new Botanic System may be concentrated, that the joint efforts of the great Botanic Family may be consolidated, that rights may be fairly and legally disposed of, that persons designing to pursue the practice as a profession, may have the means of requisite instruction, and that infirmaries may be appointed, and lectures given at important points, and all this concern, in the various items named, and in various other respects, may be conducted on the same uniform principle, without any deviation. We hope the Branch Societies will feel the importance of a general representation at the Convention on the 14th of October next. Dr. Thomson is determined to attend in person, having business of importance on hand, in which he wishes for the joint counsel of his friends, and the patrons of the cause throughout this magnanimous nation, as far as it can possibly be obtained. We anticipate a great Botanical meeting, and the adoption of a course of useful and popular measures, that will give a new and unprecedented impulse to the cause. We take our leave of the present volume with many pleasing recollections of the many cordial intimations, of approbation, we have received, some of which were so interwoven with other portions of several communications, we were compelled from a sense of politeness to lay them before our readers; many others have commanded a respectful silent emotion of grateful consideration, but from motives of delicacy, and to avoid all appearance of egotism and



self-complacency, have unhesitatingly been suppressed.

"One self approving hour whole  
years out-weighs  
Of stupid gazers and of loud huzzas!"  
Yet well we know how highly to es-  
teem,  
The approbation of discerning men:  
While learned folly sneers at all we  
do,  
Truth will protect and bear us safely  
through!  
The year is passed! here we the vol-  
ume close,  
An arm of strength to friends, of ter-  
ror to our foes!

### SUCCESSFULNESS OF REGU- LAR PRACTICE

We deplore most heartily the de-  
structive course of epidemic Cholera.  
In the great valley of Mississippi,  
and in towns and cities along the  
shores of the Ohio, and in the interi-  
or towns of our state, and of Ken-  
tucky, and divers other places, it has  
made enormous desolating strides—  
In Niles Weekly Register of August  
31st ult. we have noticed the au-  
thentic statement here given. "The  
ravages of Cholera" says the Regis-  
ter, "in many parts of the western  
states, were, indeed, awful—but the  
disease seems now to be nearly stay-  
ed. The official account shows that  
there were 502 deaths in Lexington,  
Ky.—or more, perhaps, than one  
tenth part of the average population  
of that town during the prevalence  
of the pestilence."

A letter dated Campeachy, July  
27, says, "The cholera rages here  
with such fury, that *the whole popu-  
lation of the State of Yucatan*, (one  
of the Mexican states,) may be said  
to have been destroyed; and there are  
towns where, not *ten* inhabitants had  
survived! The first death happened  
at Campeachy on the 21st June, and  
on the 5th of July 260 persons died.  
The latest accounts says that the dis-  
ease had not abated. The cholera

has reappeared in London and its  
vicinity, and it is feared has natural-  
ized itself."

Thus courteous reader you may dis-  
cover what a harvest of medical fame  
the Regular, learned, legalized fac-  
ulty are destined to reap and the first  
laurels they are gathering for them-  
selves. If the fate of Lexington  
could have been accredited to the  
Thomsonian practice, what would  
have been the cry of our Regular  
Physicians, and their infatuated adhe-  
rents? But Thomsonian hands being  
clear of the blood of those unfortunate  
victims, calomel, opium and the lan-  
cet will still have their admirers.—  
Under such circumstances of exten-  
sive mortality as has attended the reg-  
ular practice, it must sink in the es-  
timation of the enlightened and im-  
partial citizens. Reader, reflect, and  
refrain from the use of *poisonous drugs!*  
If in some dreadful cases, and un-  
toward, unmanageable circumstances,  
Thomsonians have failed to effect a  
cure, these instances by no means  
militate against the general efficacy  
of the system of botanic practice.—  
There is nothing in the occasional fail-  
ures of Thomsonians, to compare with  
the general, and almost universal  
failures of the mineral practice in  
those regions where Thomsonianism  
was unknown, and could not of course,  
by dint of stratagem, be made a pack-  
horse to take away the reproach from  
the regular faculty. The facts referred  
to, are of such astonishing and in-  
controvertible notoriety, that the pen  
of the impartial historian cannot fail  
to do justice to the cause of truth.—  
The mineral faculty cannot, in any  
one place, boast of a success equal to  
that of the botanic practice in many  
places. Amidst the greatest failures,  
the Thomsonian system has not failed  
to evince its superiority. This pre-  
judice itself, cannot successfully de-  
stroy. Could the faculty turn the table, and  
enroll Thomsonians cures in the ar-  
chieves of their own order, and place

the disastrous results of their own practice at Lexington, Mayslick, Campeachy, Yucatar, and hundreds of other places, on the records of botanic misfortunes, how complete would have been their triumph. The grand defeat would have sounded from Montreal to Mobile, and from Halifax to the Rocky Mountains of the west. The medical Universities would have exclaimed;

"Seas roll to waft us, suns to light us  
rise,  
Our footstool earth, our Canopy the  
skies."

It is not with a view to recommend Iodine as a medicine, to the Botanic Physician, that we have given the following extract. We have other ways and means for treating the goitre or big neck. We think, however, it contains many items of information worthy the attention of the reader, besides the prescription of Dr. Comdet, who recommends the Iodine for goitre which is the greivous and unsightly disorder alluded to.

## CURIOUS DISCOVERIES

### IN PRACTICAL SCIENCE.

In the granite quarries, near Serin-gapatam, the most enormous blocks are separated from the solid rock by the following neat and simple process.—The workmen having found a portion of the rock sufficiently extensive, and situated near the edge of the part already quarried, lays bare the upper surface, and marks on it a line in the direction of the intended separation, along which a groove is cut with a chissel about a couple of inches in depth. Above this groove a line of fire is kindled, and this is maintained till the rock below is thoroughly heated, immediately on which a line of men and women, each provided with a pot of cold water, suddenly sweep off the ashes, and pour the water into the heated groove, when the rock at once splits with a clean fracture. Square blocks of six feet in the side, and upwards of eighty feet in length, are

sometimes detached by this method. Hardly less simple and efficacious is the process used in some parts of France, where millstones are made. When a mass sufficiently large is found, it is cut into a round form, several feet high, and the question then arises, how to divide this into pieces of proper size for millstones. For this purpose grooves are chisselled out at distances corresponding to the thickness intended to be given to the millstones, into which grooves wedges of dried wood are driven, and next morning the block of stone is found separated into pieces of a proper size for millstones, merely by the expansion of the wood, consequent on its absorption of moisture; an irresistible natural power thus accomplishing, almost without any trouble, and at no expense, an operation which, from the peculiar hardness and texture of the stone, would otherwise be impracticable, but by the most powerful machinery, or the most persevering labor.—Abundant examples might be cited of cases where the remarks of experienced artists, or even ordinary workmen, have led to the discovery of natural qualities, elements, or combinations, which have proved of the highest importance. Thus, (to give an instance,) a soap manufacturer remarks that the residum of his ley, when exhausted of its alkali, for which he employs it, produces a corrosion of his copper boiler, for which he cannot account. He puts it into the hands of a scientific chemist for analysis, and the result is the discovery of one of the most singular and important chemical elements, *Iodine*. The properties of this, being studied, are found to occur most oppositely, in illustration and support of a variety of new, curious, and instructive views, then gaining ground in chemistry, and thus exercising a marked influence over the whole body of that science. Curiosity is excited; the origin of the new substance is traced to the sea plants from the ashes of which the principal ingredient of soap is obtained, and, ultimately, to the sea-water itself. It is thence hunted through nature, discovered in salt mines, and springs, and pursued into all bodies that have a marine origin, among the rest into sponge. A medical practitioner, Dr. Comdet, of

Geneva, then calls to mind one of the most greivous and unsightly disorders to which the human species is subject, the wen, which infests the inhabitants of mountaineous districts, to an extent that in this favored land we have, happily, no experience of, and which was said to have been originally cured by the ashes of burnt sponge. Led by this indication, he tries the effect of Iodine on that complaint, and the result establishes the extraordinary fact, that this singular substance as a medicine, acts with the utmost promptitude and energy on *goitre*, dissipating the largest and most inveterate in a short time, and acting (of course, like all medicines, even the most approved, with occasional failures,) as a specific, or natural antagonist against that odious deformity. In needle manufactories, the workmen who point the needles are constantly exposed to excessively minute particles of steel, which fly from the grind-stones, and mix, though invisible to the eye, as the finest dust in the air, are inhaled with their breath. The effect, though imperceptible on a short exposure, yet being constantly repeated from day to day, produces a constitutional irritation dependent on the tonic properties of the steel, which is sure to terminate in pulmonary consumption; insomuch that persons employed in this kind of work, used scarcely ever to attain the age of forty years. In vain was it attempted to purify the air, before the entry into the lungs, by gauzes or linen guards; the the dust was too fine and penetrating to be obstructed by some coarse expedients, till some ingenious person be-thought him of that wonderful power which every child who searches for its mother's needle with a magnet or admires the motion of a few steel filings on a sheet of paper held above it, sees in exercise. Masks of magnetized steel wire are now constructed and adapted to the faces of the workmen. By these the air is not merely strained but searched in its passage through them, and each obnoxious atom arrested and removed. Who would have conceived that *linen rags* were capable of producing more than their own weight of sugar, by the simple agency of one of the cheapest and most abun-

dant acids (the sulphuric)? That *dry bones* could be a magazine of nutriment, capable of preserving for years, and ready to yield up their sustenance in the form best adapted to the support of life, on the application of that powerful agent, steam, which enters so largely into all our processes, or of an acid at once cheap and durable?—*Herschell's Nat. Philosophy.*

### PUBLIC NOTICE.

In a letter from Dr. Samuel Thomson to the Senior Editor of the Recorder, dated August 30, 1833, speaking of the Convention of the Friendly Botanic Society of the United States, to commence at Pittsburgh on the second Monday in October of the current year, and expressing his design of being personally present, observes—“Please to give timely and repeated notice of the pending meeting in the Recorder. I wish most earnestly that there may be as general attendance as practicable. There is *business of special importance* to be laid before them, that calls for their particular attention.” Of this we have been fully apprised and have given repeated notice of the time and place for the meeting of the Convention. Botanic Branch Societies in the United States, it is hoped, will be universally represented. Individuals, Special Agents, and others who take an interest in the cause, it is hoped, will be in attendance. Thomsonian Infirmaries, those nurseries of benevolence, we wish to hear from them. The communications of Botanic Institutions, of every class, who do not make war upon the Thomsonian System, and whose end and aim is to advance Botanic Practice, will, as we have frequently suggested, be cordially received and respectfully noticed. We highly appreciate whatever may augment the aggregate sum of really useful Botanic knowledge in relation to the removal of disease from mankind. We hope these friendly intimations of our views and feelings, towards the whole Botanic family, will be received in that conciliatory spirit which it is our desire to awaken in every ingenuous mind.

T. HERSEY,

Sec. of Gen. Cor. U. S. Bot. Soc.

